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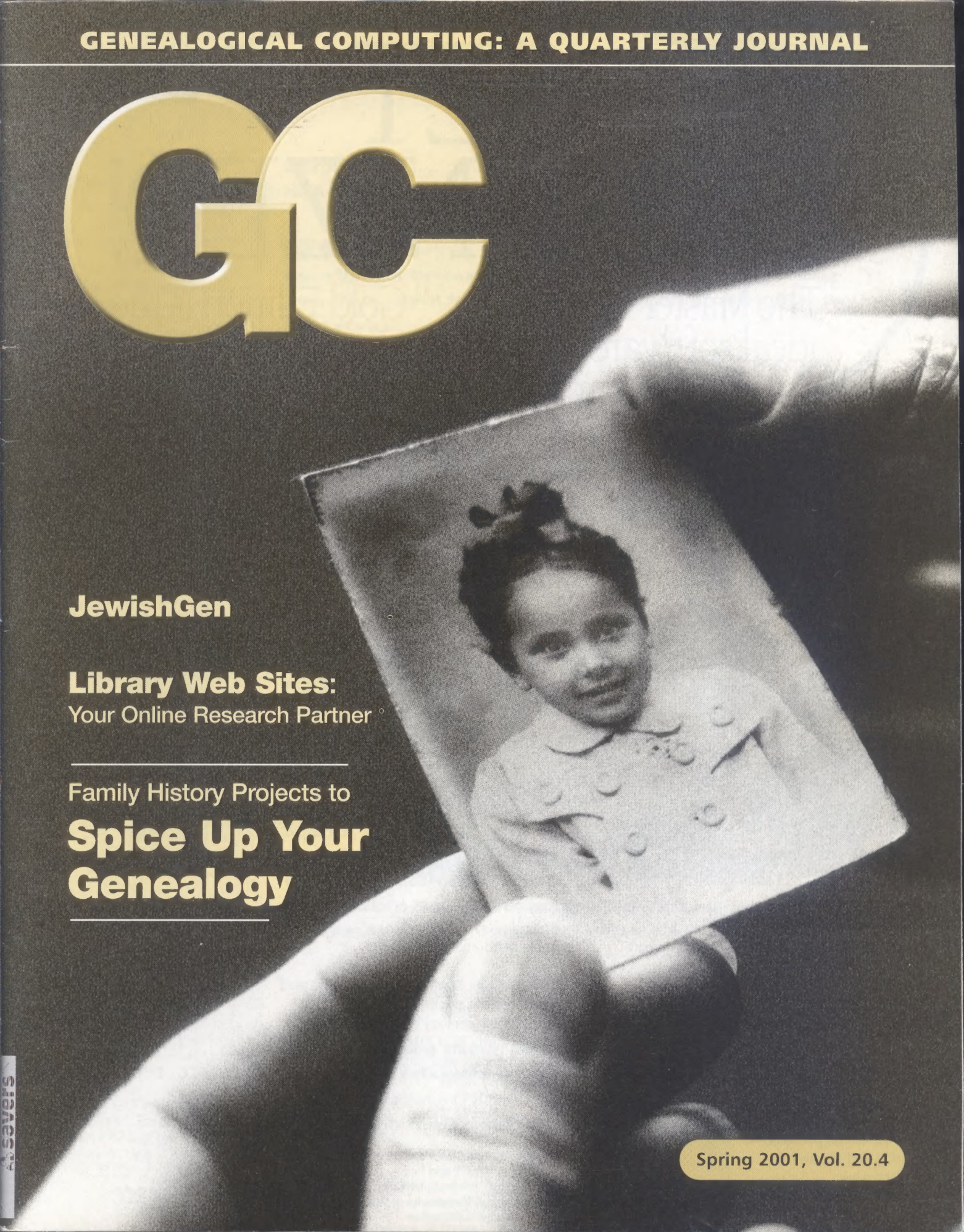

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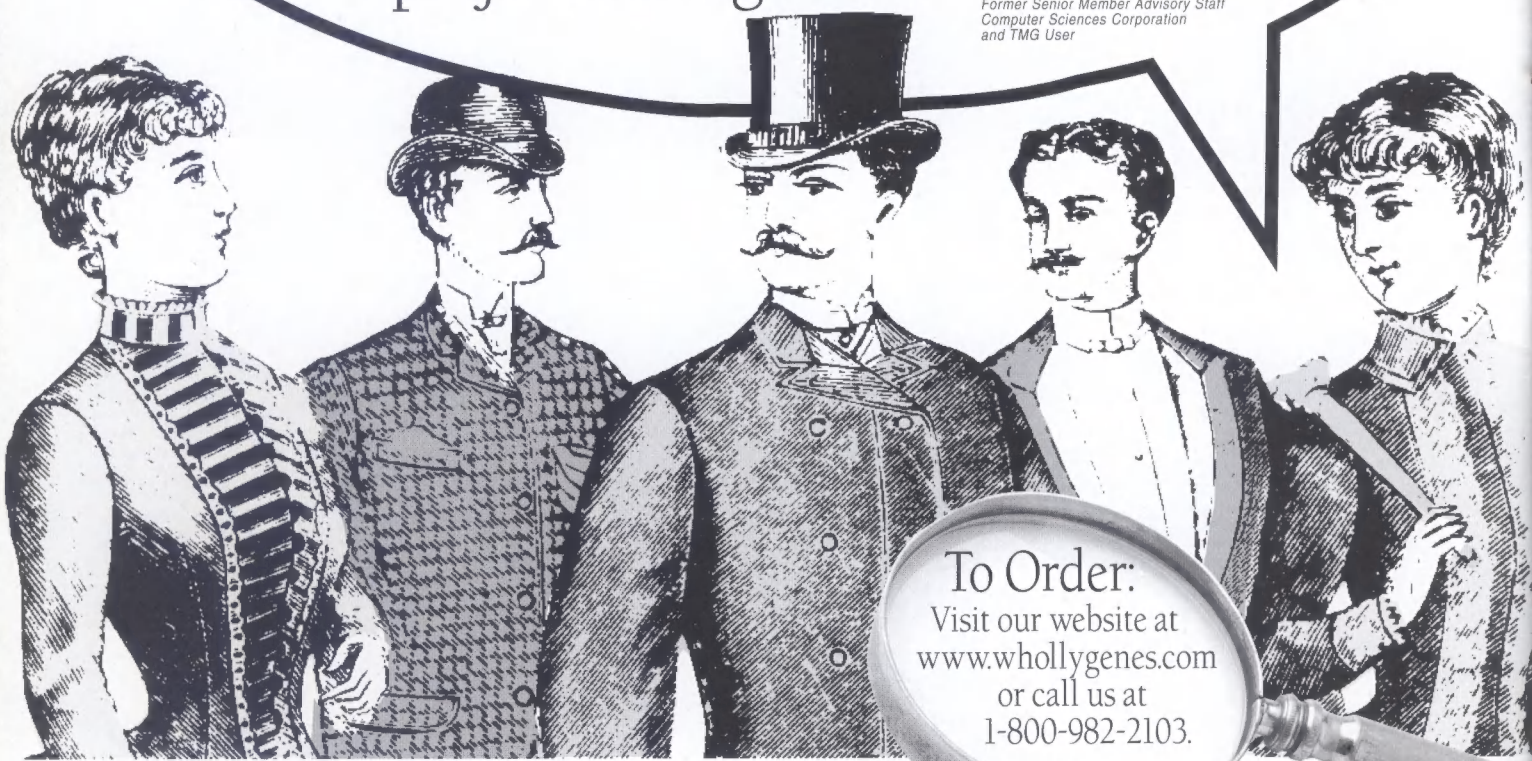

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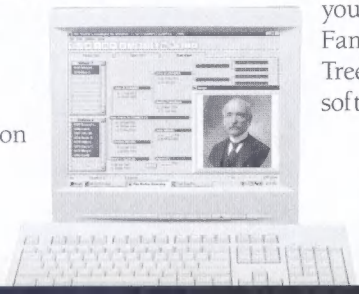

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Publisher
Ancestry, a division of
MyFamily.com, Inc.

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Genealogical Computing (ISSN 0277-5913) USPS #669890 is published quarterly by MyFamily.com, Inc., 360 West 4800 North, Provo, UT 84604.

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Genealogical Computing*, 360 West 4800 North, Provo, UT 84604. Periodicals Postage Paid at Provo and at additional mailing offices.

Genealogical Computing encourages submissions that deal with computers as they relate to genealogy. Address articles to Editor, *Genealogical Computing*.

Individuals or companies may obtain advertising information by contacting an Account Executive at (801) 225-8063.

Subscriptions are $25 annually. Please add $5 foreign postage for Canada and Mexico, CDN Publication Agreement #1766821; $10 for other foreign subscriptions. Back issues are available for $8.50. To order: (800) 262-3787.

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EDITOR'S FILE

I like to think of creative projects I can share with family members to get them excited about their ancestry. Over the past decade or so, I've come up with several that have been fun and interesting. For example, one year for Christmas, I gave my parents and siblings a calendar with a different image of an ancestor on each month. I had scanned the images and used a desktop publishing program to print the months. The gifts were well-received, but everyone wanted to know where the new calendar was when the year ended.

The most popular project I have tried so far was the CDs I gave everyone at a family reunion last year. The CDs had about 250 images of family members and ancestors; I had accumulated these from a variety of cousins.

The lead article in *GC* this issue should get your creative juices flowing if you're looking for a digital project for your genealogy. Jake Gehring proposes seven different projects to "clothe the genealogical skeleton."

The rest of this issue (aside from the reviews) focuses on different aspects of the Internet. Curt Witcher shows the possibilities of conducting research at library Web sites from the comfort of your desktop. Gary Mokotoff looks in depth at JewishGen—the primary Internet site for Jewish genealogical research. Rhonda McClure explains the ins and outs of selecting an Internet Service Provider. And Elizabeth Powell Crowe takes a look at the online census images posted at both Ancestry.com and Genealogy.com.

Our columnists continue to tackle the tough stuff. Cybrarian Drew Smith gives suggestions for surviving the daily e-mail flood. I've already put some of his ideas to work in my inbox. In Bits & Bites, Candace Doriott anticipates some technology advances that are just around the corner. I'm intrigued by the idea of a wearable computer!

We've got the usual lineup of product reviews. In this issue, we take a look at *Family Origins* 9.0, *Family Tree Maker* 8.0, and *Family Trees Quick & Easy 4.0*. We also review a number of data CDs, including *America, America*; *Middle-America–Mexico Vital Records Index*; and a selection of Genealogy.com CDs.

I'd also like to say something about product reviews for those of you who may wonder how they're handled. The *GC* policy is that a manufacturer must provide a review copy of software or CDs for free. *GC* strives for objectivity. Therefore, review copies are sent to reviewers who can write a critical review of a product, without bias. Any promotional material we receive is sent to the reviewer only for information. We do not simply reprint publicity material from manufacturers. Our aim is to let readers know the score on the products we review, regardless of whether the manufacturer happens to advertise in this publication.

Reviewers get to keep the product, and Ancestry.com pays them a small stipend for their contribution. Neither the free product nor the stipend is to be construed as paying the reviewer to slant the review in any particular direction. The stipend is merely recognition that the contribution is of value to this publication. GC

The lead article in GC this issue will get your creative juices flowing.

Elizabeth Kelley Kerstens, CGRS, CGL
Managing Editor

Note: *For those of you who can't get enough of* GC, *join me online each Thursday for my column GC Extra.*

www.ancestry.com/library/view/columns/extra/extra.asp

Ancestry Announces

Images Online Project Grows

Ancestry.com continues to post scanned images of U.S. Federal Census population schedules on a weekly basis. These are high-quality, grayscale images that have been scanned from early-generation microfilm. The 1790 and 1920 censuses are now complete, and much of the 1900 census has also been posted.

www.ancestry.com/search/io/about/main.htm

Ancestry.com will soon have a complete, indexed set online—except for the 1890 census, which was destroyed by fire. To compensate, Ancestry has created a special 1890 Census Substitute database that uses city directories, state censuses, and other records to help genealogists bridge the gap.

New Message Boards at RootsWeb and Ancestry.com

RootsWeb and Ancestry.com will soon launch new, state-of-the-art genealogy message boards. The message board community will provide family history researchers with the best free, time-efficient mechanism to share and research their family lines.

The message board features will be upgraded to help users sift through information more efficiently; search features will be enhanced, and results will return more quickly.

The message boards offer researchers the ability to share information and tips on surnames, geographic regions, topics, and Web site features. GC

RootsWeb and Ancestry.com will soon launch new, state-of-the-art genealogy message boards.

Genealogy News

English Origins Launches

Origins.net, in collaboration with the Society of Genealogists, announced the launch of the English Origins Web site in January. The site operates on a pay-per-view basis that is similar to the company's existing Scots Origins service. The initial datasets are of English records.

The Society has agreed with Origins to allow important parts of its unique collection of British Isles material to be made available over the Internet, no longer restricting access to those visiting the Society's library in London.

www.origins.net

The English Origins database currently includes more than 1 million names, covering the period 1568 to 1850.

Immigration History Center to Open

The American Family Immigration History Center will open its doors (and records) in April, both at Ellis Island and on the Internet. This long-awaited Center will provide easy access to the ships' passenger manifest records of the more than 22 million people who entered the United States through the port of New York and Ellis Island from 1892 to 1924. For more information, visit the Web site.

www.ellisisland.org

GenealogyDatabase.com Will Not Launch

Heritage Quest has placed the following announcement on its GenealogyDatabase.com Web site: "We regret to announce that, due to economic pressures in the Internet market, we are indefinitely postponing our site's launch. We recognize that there is a strong interest in online census records. However, we feel that, at this time, we would be unable to provide the level of service SierraHome and Heritage Quest customers have come to expect."

PAF 5.0 Uses All Languages

The newest version of *Personal Ancestral File* can now record information in all languages. In addition to being able to type characters from all the Roman alphabets, users can type characters from languages around the world, including Japanese, Chinese, Korean, and Russian. *PAF* 5.0 is available as a free download at the FamilySearch Web site.

www.familysearch.org

A&E Acquires Genealogy.com

Genealogy.com, the producer of *Family Tree Maker*, has announced that it has been acquired by the A&E Television Network. The ownership change was effective on February 1. A&E was formerly an investor in Genealogy.com. This change marks the sixth such administrative transfer for the company since its founding in the early 1980s. GC

Reader Feedback

GC's Candor Applauded

George W. Archer's "Genealogical Computer Interest Groups" (*GC*, Winter 2001, p. 7) may be the most poignant article ever to appear in *GC*. His observation that genealogical software makers, not genealogical educators, have the greater influence on the quality of research is significant. Partly responsible for this trend are the magazine editors who discourage critical comments about software—presumably because the vendors who advertise in their journals might be offended—but also responsible are those reviewers who accept free software for review and are thus beholden to the vendors who supplied it.

Their reviews often end up being little more than free sales literature for the vendor. Eventually realizing that they are not being told the whole truth, readers seeking candid appraisals of the software they are considering lose interest in product reviews and stop reading them.

I also noticed that the phrase "quality genealogy research" appeared three times in this article. I think that may be a new record for any magazine that targets computer-using genealogists. A free press is absolutely essential to free markets, and the genealogy market is no exception. I find the candor recently displayed in *GC* most refreshing, and I am convinced that it will eventually lead to much-needed reform and quality improvement in computer products for genealogists.

—William Zehner

The newest version of* Personal Ancestral File *can now record information in all languages.

Mac Articles

I believe there are many Mac users who would join me in saying thank you for the Mac program information and the review of *Reunion* in the current issue of *GC* (Winter 2001, p. 13 and p. 43, respectively). My compliments and thanks to Larry Naukam as well. I hope we will see more articles to assist those of us who are using the Mac platform.

—Leola Russell (Jo Russell)

More Mac Software

I really enjoyed the Winter issue (*GC*, Winter 2001). At last there was a great deal of meat for dedicated Macintosh users. The articles by Larry Naukam were well-written and very informative and I was especially pleased to find out about the *Reunion* software. There seems to be a shortage of Macintosh software in many fields, especially genealogy. I have *PAF* 2.3.1 for Macintosh, and when I asked if *PAF* 4.0 would be upgraded to include a Mac version, I was told to purchase *Virtual PC*—not very good for customer relations.

I am interested in purchasing the new *Reunion* software as soon as I can try it. I downloaded the demo, but it refuses to open on my PPC 2300/200 running OS 8.6. I will write to LeisterPro and see what the problem may be before making a purchase.

—Rudy Willemsen

Exciting Family History Projects to
Spice Up Your Genealogy

By Jake Gehring

Have you ever wished for the pencil-and-paper days of the past? Perhaps you've been through a computer virus infection or a crashed hard drive. Maybe you've been frustrated at the prospect of transferring a GEDCOM file from one software program to another. There comes a point when many genealogists wonder if digitizing their research has been worth it. For all their supposed convenience and high-tech appeal, computers certainly do introduce a lot of cost and overhead—and genealogy is hard enough as it is!

A few years ago, I opened a lecture with an overhead showing many of the confusing acronyms of our field (PERSI, FHC, NUCMC, ACPL, NGSQ, BCG, NEHGS, NARA, and ISBGFH to name a few). The next slide showed even more acronyms, this time from the world of computers (SCSI, GB, FTP, CD-ROM, RTF, GIGO, WPD, CPU, TCP/IP, and even WYSIWYG!). The point was that combining a very involved and detail-intensive pursuit with the unforgiving technical complexity of computers did not necessarily bring harmonious results.

At least theoretically, computers really do bring a unique value to family history. As an organizational tool, the computer can easily handle the thousands of pieces of information in a pedigree. Publishing is much easier when a faulty chart can be edited and reprinted cheaply. Searching large amounts of data for a very specific query is no problem. And as far as communication is concerned, the Internet has come to epitomize hyperconnectivity.

Don't let all that computing power go to waste! Below are a few projects that may help you take better advantage of your technology investment. Each project involves different digital skills, data manipulation, source materials, techniques, and creativity, but all are designed to take your research beyond the mere names and places that form a pedigree chart or family group sheet.

Project #1: Add Pictures to Your Pedigree

Anyone who has tried to show off research by proudly circulating a pedigree chart to siblings or cousins knows that a pixel really is worth a thousand words. Somehow the arithmetic progression from generation to generation doesn't seem to convey to the uninitiated masses the proper mystique (not to mention the hundreds of man-hours of effort).

A friend of mine has been frustrated for years in trying to excite his family about their ancestry. He recently switched to old photographs of family members as his weapon of choice. The result, he says, has been amazing. "Some of my family members are not the least bit into genealogy, but they are certainly interested in their 'roots.' My photographs really got them interested in our family's history," he said.

The surest method to finding the perfect digital image is to scan it yourself. Scanners have become so inexpensive that many new computer systems offer

Anyone who has tried to show off research by circulating a pedigree chart knows that a pixel really is worth a thousand words.

Something about an old map awakens the cartographer in all of us.

them as a bonus peripheral. Even very impressive deluxe models, with high scan resolutions and add-on attachments, can be purchased for less than $500. Virtually all scanners come bundled with scanning software. Print and online publications regularly review scanners, too, so be sure to get up-to-date on the latest technology and prices before buying.

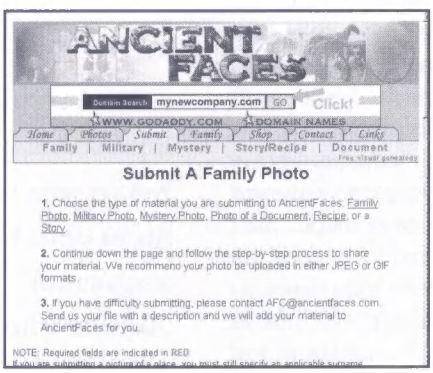
For more information, see Liz Kerstens' article "Lasting Images: Protecting Your Photographic Heritage" in the May/June 2000 issue of *Ancestry* Magazine. A digital copy of the article is available online.

www.ancestry.com/library/view/ancmag/2122.asp

A number of online resources have appeared in the past few years to help find and manage ancestral photographs.

www.myfamily.com

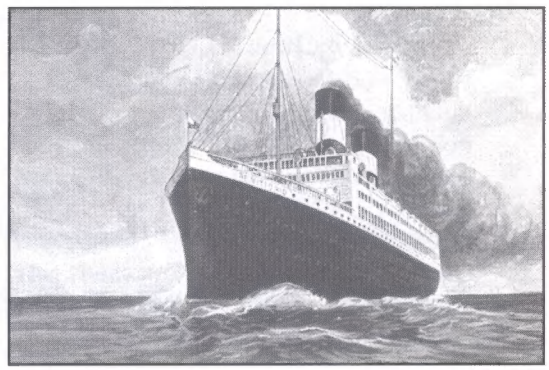
MyFamily.com, the sister site to genealogical subscription site Ancestry.com, offers an online photo album and free Web space to upload and store photos. Web sites like Ancient Faces have begun to collect user-submitted photographs the same way other sites collect GEDCOM files. Remember, too, that your ancestor's image need not be photographic. Occasionally you'll find a sketch of a prominent ancestor in a county history or compiled biography.



www.ancientfaces.com

Even if you possess a picture or sketch of an ancestor, you may spice up the historical record with an image of an ancestral hometown, the vessel your ancestors immigrated on, or some other meaningful object. PicturesNow!, an Internet repository of photos and video clips, offers hundreds of historical and genealogical illustrations, including many scanned postcards and drawings of towns and cities around the United States. The images can be downloaded for personal use at no charge. Visit KinShips online to browse hundreds of scanned images of passenger vessels. Once you find the proper ship, high-quality prints can be ordered as gifts or as future scanning projects.

www.picturesnow.com

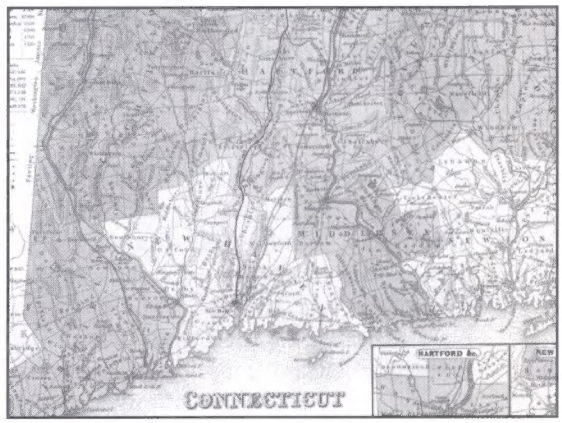


A scanned image of a passenger vessel at kinshipsprints.com

All major genealogical software packages now offer multimedia options for pedigree charts, family group sheets, descendancy charts, etc. Some programs, like *The Master Genealogist*™, can export various reports to a word processor, where you can paste and manipulate images at any appropriate place in the text.

Project #2: Show Your Family's Past with Historical Maps

Something about an old map awakens the cartographer in all of us. Aside from the *bona fide* genealogical value of understanding the locales where your



A high-resolution map of Connecticut found at www.davidrumsey.com

ancestors lived, an old map can really bring a family history to life.

Until recently, it was difficult for genealogists to find a map or atlas that showed an ancestral location at the proper time period or at the proper detail. Let's face it: MapQuest™ or some other Internet place finder may help you find your way to a grocery store in an unfamiliar city, but it will not really give your genealogy a sense of nostalgia.

Instead, try a Web site like Cartographic Associates. This fantastic online offering encompasses more than 3,000 18th- and 19th-century maps scanned at very high resolution. The collection

www.davidrumsey.com

focuses on North and South America and will generally allow users to choose between several different maps for the same topic; a search for Connecticut, for example, returned 12 maps of the state at various time periods between 1794 and 1846.

In addition to new map offerings from the Internet, a number of tried-and-true CD-ROM products are also available. GoldBug Software is perhaps best known for its *AniMap County Boundary Historical Atlas*. The company

www.goldbug.com

has also produced a number of CD-ROM map libraries for the British Isles, Europe, and the United States, each containing between 150 and 200 scanned maps. And as far as gazetteers are concerned, Quintin Publications has published a number of digitized works

www.quintinpublications.com/cdgaz.html

that provide historical context as well as interesting reading.

Project #3: Use Historical Events to Show Context

It has been said that genealogists often do not find what they are looking for because they don't understand the historical context of the period they are researching. Economic distress, religious events, and war are all examples of historical events that may have caused great changes in your ancestors' lives. These events can also add a great degree of human interest and background to your genealogy.

You might spend time researching a particular time period or historical event and creating a report on how your ancestors were affected by it. Not only will such an exercise flex your research muscles, but it will undoubtedly make your research more interesting to those relatives who don't "do genealogy."

The Internet has hundreds of Web sites dedicated to the history of places and events. You might even begin with something as familiar as the

http://memory.loc.gov

USGenWeb project. Many individual county sites within this structure offer a good deal of historical background, or at least a few bibliographic references. Another well-known Internet site for historical research is the Library of Congress American Memory project. The wide variety of subjects treated on this government site includes first-person accounts of general culture, music, folk life, language, transportation, agriculture, recreation, religion, and much more. Many of the collections also include scanned images.

A scanned image of Sid Smith located at the Library of Congress Web site

Online genealogy subscription services also offer historical data. Genealogy Library.com, for example, has posted several hundred local and family histories, each searchable by keyword. Ancestry.com offers a number of general histories like Woodrow Wilson's *History of the American People*. Heritage

www.genealogylibrary.com

Quest has begun to publish urban 1870 census indexes combined with maps, illustrations, and historical background on several major U.S. cities, including Baltimore, St. Louis, Philadelphia, Richmond, Chicago, and Brooklyn. Even data conglomerate

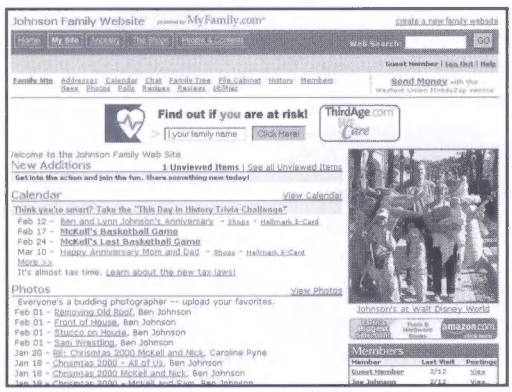
Genealogists who know the historical context of the period they are researching often find what they are looking for.

UMI has released, in beta version, a new online genealogy service based on its Genealogy & Local History collection.

Project #4: Create a Family Newsletter to Share Findings

It has never been easier to produce a family newsletter. The days of light tables, physical cutting and pasting, and other relics of a bygone technology are in the past. In fact, desktop publishing is now so commonplace that we rarely hear the term anymore.

Any modern computer with a word processor like Microsoft® *Word* or WordPerfect® can produce expert newsletters. Both programs, in fact, have pre-programmed templates for just such a purpose. You can add graphics, clip art, submissions from various family members, and even genealogical charts and reports. Modern ink-jet and laser printers are ubiquitous and produce printed work that, for all intents and purposes, is equivalent to a professionally typeset document.



www.myfamily.com

Many researchers have gone one step further and have produced online newsletters. Using such collaborative Web sites as MyFamily.com, Super Family.com, eGroups, and MSN Communities, extended families can upload forms and reports, share scanned images, discuss research problems, etc. Aside from the value of connecting people who live far apart, not to mention the savings on printing and postage, such sites are usually free. A tip for the wise: The more people you invite to such sites, the more active and collaborative the activity will be. Try for at least ten active contributors—more, if possible.

Researchers can now directly attach scans of original documents to individual records in their databases.

Project #5: Record Oral History for Posterity

When most people think of technology in genealogy, they think of ASCII databases, hard drives, Web sites, etc. Yet many researchers have been involved in multimedia projects for decades—in the form of oral histories recorded on magnetic tape.

I treasure an audio recording on cassette tape of my father and his teenage friends belting out barbershop quartet tunes in the early 1960s. However, the passage of time and the wear and tear on the recording worry me each time I play it. I have resolved to transfer the recording to a newer media—one without moving parts and susceptibility to damage from electromagnetic fields. In other words, I'd like to transfer the data from cassette to compact disc. Even though CDs also have drawbacks, and in a larger sense all digital media have a built-in life span, I believe the recording has a better chance of survival if I am vigilant about moving it to safer technologies and media when the opportunity presents itself.

Transferring audio recordings can be done in a number of ways, but here are a couple of common methods. If you have an audio CD recorder like the Phillips CDR950, you can record straight from a cassette deck or other stereo components. You can also use your computer to create audio CDs by sampling the output from a cassette player through your computer's sound card. Simple Windows® utilities like the Sound Recorder can take audio input and save the data stream as a .WAV file. Depending on the amount of audio and the size of the storage medium, you may even choose to further compress the audio file by converting it to .MP3. You can then transfer the data to CD-ROM using a CD-RW drive.

Even if you don't have access to the personal thoughts of your ancestors, you still may be able to incorporate transcribed text or even voices from the past into your documents. There are a number of online sound records that may shed historical and cultural light on the events in which your ancestors took

www.webcorp.com/test/audioarchive.htm

part. Virtually all of the available recordings are from the twentieth century, however, so they may also serve as background for your own life history. The Historic Audio Archive, for example, has archived famous speeches by John F. Kennedy, Malcolm X, and others, as well as speeches from prominent World War II figures.

If you like gathering oral history from your parents, grandparents, and other relatives, you could conceivably record straight into your computer using a microphone connected to your computer's sound card. Be sure you have plenty of hard disk space for this operation before you begin—you don't want to interrupt your Uncle Albert in the middle of a memory to fiddle with the keyboard.

certainly represents new challenges (quality of scans, quality of source material, digital image enhancement, etc.) for the researcher, it at least addresses some of the weaknesses of digital text, i.e., conversion accuracy and brevity.

With the storage capacity of an average computer on the rise, and with the increasing capacity of genealogical software programs to include scanned images within source documentation, the researcher can now directly attach these scans to individual records. This may be especially important if the document in question is handwritten and/or in another language. Even if you are unsure of your own transcription or translation, you can include the document image in source documentation to

As with photographs and scanned images, a quality illustration can add value to good writing.

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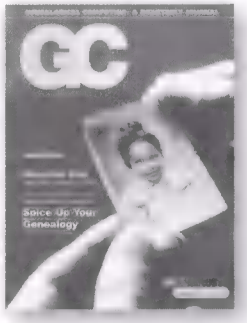

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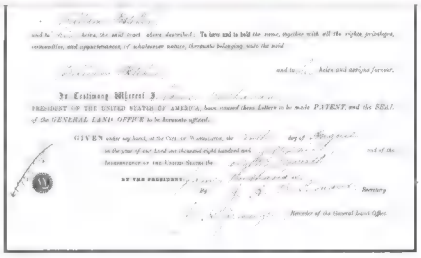


Scanned document available at the Bureau of Land Management Web site

ment means scaling a language barrier, many Web-based language translation tools now exist to assist researchers. AltaVista's *Babel Fish* technology allows

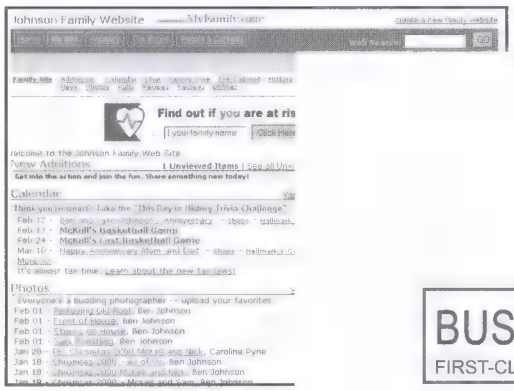
users to simply input text or the URL of a Web site to receive a machine translation to English from nine other languages.

UMI has released, in beta version, a new online genealogy service based on its Genealogy & Local History collection.

Project #4: Create a Family Newsletter to Share Findings

It has never been easier to produce a family newsletter. The days of light tables, physical cutting and pasting, and other relics of a bygone technology are in the past. In fact, desktop publishing is now so commonplace that we rarely hear the term anymore.

Any modern computer with a word processor like Microsoft® *Word* or WordPerfect® can produce expert newsletters. Both programs, in fact, have pre-programmed templates for just



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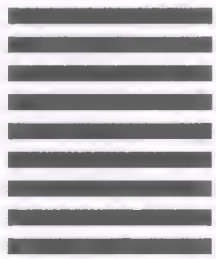


Researchers can now directly attach scans of original documents to individual records in their databases.

sites are usually free. A tip for the wise: The more people you invite to such sites, the more active and collaborative the activity will be. Try for at least ten active contributors—more, if possible.

Project #5: Record Oral History for Posterity

When most people think of technology in genealogy, they think of ASCII databases, hard drives, Web sites, etc. Yet many researchers have been involved in multimedia projects for decades—in the form of oral histories recorded on magnetic tape.

I treasure an audio recording on cassette tape of my father and his teenage friends belting out barbershop quartet tunes in the early 1960s. However, the passage of time and the wear and tear on the recording worry me each time I play it. I have resolved to transfer the recording to a newer media—one without moving parts and susceptibility to damage from electromagnetic fields. In other words, I'd like to transfer the data from cassette to compact disc. Even though CDs also have drawbacks, and in a larger sense all digital media have a built-in life

Even if you don't have access to the personal thoughts of your ancestors, you still may be able to incorporate transcribed text or even voices from the past into your documents. There are a number of online sound records that may shed historical and cultural light on the events in which your ancestors took

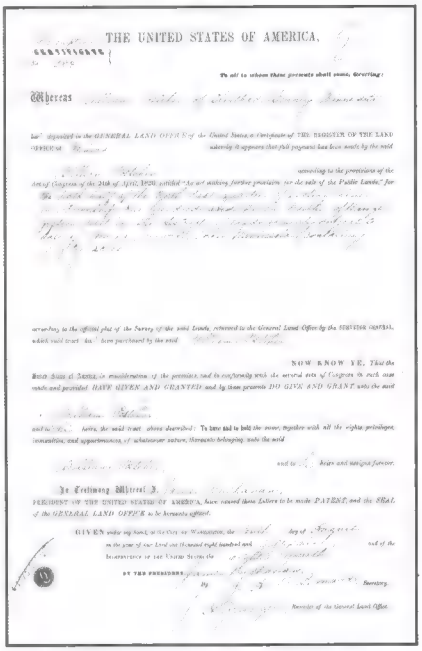
www.webcorp.com/test/audioarchive.htm

part. Virtually all of the available recordings are from the twentieth century, however, so they may also serve as background for your own life history. The Historic Audio Archive, for example, has archived famous speeches by John F. Kennedy, Malcolm X, and others, as well as speeches from prominent World War II figures.

If you like gathering oral history from your parents, grandparents, and other relatives, you could conceivably record straight into your computer using a microphone connected to your computer's sound card. Be sure you have plenty of hard disk space for this operation before you begin—you don't want to interrupt your Uncle Albert in the middle of a memory to fiddle with the keyboard.

Project #6: Use Original Documents as Source Citations

Genealogical research on the Internet is undergoing a fundamental media change. Societies, governmental organizations, and for-profit companies are beginning to offer historical documents as scanned images, as opposed to digital text indexes or extractions. While this certainly represents new challenges (quality of scans, quality of source material, digital image enhancement, etc.) for the researcher, it at least addresses some of the weaknesses of digital text, i.e., conversion accuracy and brevity.


THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

Whereas

NOW KNOW YE, That the

In Testimony Whereof, I,

GIVEN under my hand, at the City of Washington, the

BY THE PRESIDENT:

Scanned document available at the Bureau of Land Management Web site

With the storage capacity of an average computer on the rise, and with the increasing capacity of genealogical software programs to include scanned images within source documentation, the researcher can now directly attach these scans to individual records. This may be especially important if the document in question is handwritten and/or in another language. Even if you are unsure of your own transcription or translation, you can include the document image in source documentation to allow others to verify/correct your work.

While a lot of industry attention has been given to online census images in the last few years, there are other important collections available. One example is the collection of federal land patent databases offered by the Bureau of Land Management's General Land Office. Users can search in databases for 31 states. Many records are linked to scanned images.

www.glorecords.blm.gov

The Essex County Registry of Deeds in Salem, Massachusetts sponsors another interesting project with a goal of providing free indexes and document images for the records in its custody. For more information about scanned images online, see Betty Clay's article "Scanned Records on Free Sites" in the Fall 2000 issue of *Genealogical Computing*.

www.salemdeeds.com

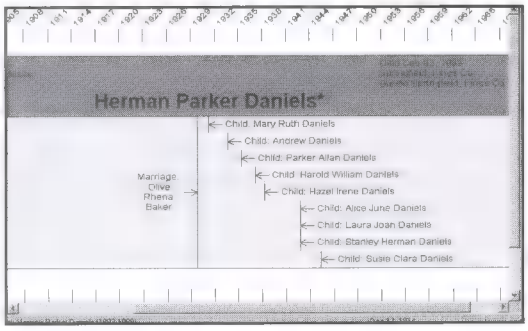
When providing an original document means scaling a language barrier, many Web-based language translation tools now exist to assist researchers. AltaVista's *Babel Fish* technology allows users to simply input text or the URL of a Web site to receive a machine translation to English from nine other languages.

http://babelfish.altavista.com

As with photographs and scanned images, a quality illustration can add value to good writing.

Project #7: Create Nice Charts and Forms

As with the photographs and scanned images mentioned above, a quality illustration can really add value to good writing. Now more than ever, genealogists have a number of very exciting charting tools to add pizzazz to their research.



A time line created in Progeny's Genelines

Even if all you need is a few pre-printed forms to send to cousins or for recording your research at the local Family History Center, there are resources on the Internet to help.

Check out the .PDF research forms available from Ancestry.com, which include a few new extraction forms for research in the U.S. Federal Census. Also available are pedigree charts, family

www.ancestry.com/save/charts/census.htm

group sheets, research logs, and others. All forms are available to subscribers and non-subscribers alike.

A number of other genealogical companies have introduced innovative charting services that create unique views of your research. *TMG* creator Wholly Genes offers *VisualChartform™*, which is bundled with its main software. The utility will create highly customizable wall charts, drop-down descendancies, and fan charts. For a modest printing and delivery fee, the company will deliver oversized, custom-plotted charts through the mail. Progeny's *Genelines* product will create a compelling time line view that can be combined with important historical events to create a snapshot of an ancestor within the framework of a larger world.

Some charts even give you a little dose of demography. Hamrick Software has developed an interesting feature on its Internet site that will display the fre-

www.hamrick.com/names

quency distribution of a surname based on census data. A chart created for one of my ancestral surnames, Burbidge, based on 1920 census data, revealed a color-code map of the United States with just two states of interest—perhaps narrowing the field of my own genealogical research.

Conclusion

Most of us are casual computer users. According to surveys and usage statistics, we often do not take full advantage of genealogical software and electronic text and images, whether that means search functionality for an online database or the advanced features of a genealogical database manager. Many of the projects described above require no sophisticated technical background—just some creativity and good, old-fashioned research.

While it is true that PCs and digital media bring new and unique problems to history and genealogy, researchers who understand and avoid weaknesses and limitations of computers and who capitalize on technology's strengths better overcome such problems. In other words, with a little effort and investigation, you can use the computer and the Internet to further your research ends, and have a little fun in the process. **G**

With a little effort, you can use the computer and the Internet to further your research ends, and have a little fun in the process.

Jake Gehring is a genealogical author and lecturer and a product manager for Ancestry.com. He is a former editor of Genealogical Computing. *Jake graduated from Brigham Young University with a degree in genealogy/family history and lives in Provo, Utah with his wife and children. He can be reached at rootseekr@aol.com.*

Library Web Sites:
Your Online Research Partner

By Curt B. Witcher,
MLS, FUGA

Isn't genealogy in the 21st century great? Who would have imagined, even a decade ago, the tremendous amount of historical and genealogical data accessible on the Web today? It is truly astounding! But at times it can also be extremely challenging—possibly even frustrating—when we are searching for key data about specific ancestors and their families.

The large number of data files available on both paid and free sites almost defies us from having the time to even glance at potentially relevant pages, let alone study and download those that might be consequential to our immediate research efforts. How can we get a handle on all this data? Where do we begin looking for relevant information? Is there a formula or posture we can use to arrive at data sets that are potentially more relevant for our specific research? I believe some of the answers to these questions rest in library Web sites.

Remember the B.C. (before computers) days? Some of the most successful family history research could be done when a researcher focused on the records and repositories of a particular geographic area. That posture, modified a bit, can be applied to Web surfing for genealogical data. And libraries are increasingly becoming good springboards for genealogical surfing.

Among the top six things you should do once you've identified a target county in which to research is to visit the local public library—virtually. Historically, public libraries have been the repositories of last resort for published materials and indexes to local information, including obituary files, local business files, local picture/photograph files, and clipping or vertical files. In our virtual environment, increasing numbers of libraries are making this data available through their Web sites.

There are a number ways to quickly identify a public library's Web site. First, check the "Libraries, Archives & Museums" link on Cyndi's List. It currently contains more than 2,000 links. Look under the names of both the city and the county to find the library.

www.CyndisList.com

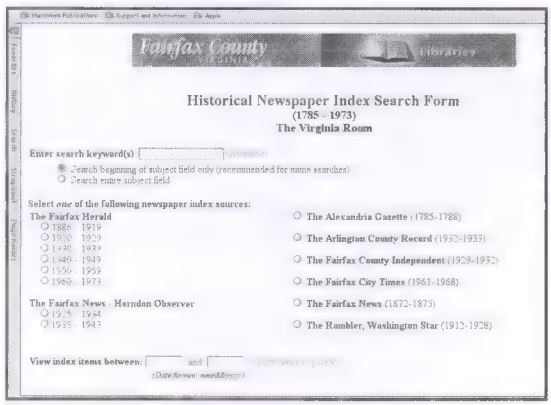
Another way to identify a library's Web site is to use an Internet search engine. Type the words "public library" behind the town or county name in a search statement. You could also visit the Web site of the state library in your state of interest. State libraries often have directories of the libraries within their boundaries. We'll talk more about state libraries later in this article.

A significant number of all libraries, including public libraries, have online catalogs. That is one of the first places a genealogical surfer will want to check to begin building a research bibliography. Typically, approaching the project by subject is best when working with online library catalogs. The two main subjects to search are family names and geographic locations, e.g., Englert family and Adams County, Pennsylvania.

After scouring the online catalog, look over the Web site for other searchable data files. Increasing numbers of libraries are posting important data files on their Web sites, including vital record

Once you've identified a target county in which to research, visit the local public library—virtually.

indexes, biographical indexes, obituaries indexes, and local history indexes. The amount of accessible information is amazing. From the large and rather well-known to the small and rather remote, public libraries' Web pages can be awesome data collection points for the careful researcher.



Fairfax County Public Library Historical Newspaper Index

The McCracken County Public Library (Kentucky), which I found by searching under "Pudacah Public Library" in a search engine, offers an online catalog and a list of 16 areas of focus in the Special Collections portion of its Adult Services Department. In addition, the site provides a complete listing of its federal census records, local and surrounding county tax lists and church records, and some collected Bible records.

www.mclib.net

The Missoula Public Library (Montana), while still using a TELNET catalog, has a "Genealogical Research" link on its main page. Under this link is a complete list of sources for conducting genealogical research in Missoula County (western Montana) and in the entire state. Tremendous detail can be found in this list, from dates of newspaper and vital record indexes to lists of cemeteries and biographical compilations.

www.missoula.lib.mt.us

In our virtual environment, libraries are making data available through their Web sites.

The Fairfax County Public Library (Virginia) offers immediate access to its extensive online catalog. By clicking on the "Libraries" link, The Virginia Room and a host of useful information becomes available. There are two searchable data files: "Cemeteries of Fairfax County, Virginia" and the "Historical Newspaper Index." The latter allows you to search county newspapers by title and type of article (e.g., birth announcements, obituaries, and photographs) for the time period 1785–1973. A detailed outline provides a generous amount of data regarding what records and published materials are available at that particular library.

www.co.fairfax.va.us/library/homepage.htm

Some tips to surfing successfully on public library Web sites include looking for headings such as "reference," "family history," "historical records," "archives," "special collections," and "local history," as well as any geographically named departments or collections, such as the Indiana Room or the Montana Collection. Also, look for a site search option that will allow you to quickly access the areas of the Web site that have relevant data. Some of the terms listed above can be used with a site search feature. Remember, don't confuse a site search function with an online catalog. The two search features operate quite differently. The former identifies particular portions of a Web site, while the latter searches for particular items held in the institution's collections.

After considering the public library offerings of a specific geographic location, determine if there is a college or university library in the same city or county. Often these organizations fulfill their commitment of service to the community by archiving important documents in their libraries or by having the institution's archives double as an archives for the city or county. Such an arrangement is in effect between Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana and Howard County. The Web site offers the researcher access to its online catalog as well as a link to its "Archives and Special Collections." Under "The Libraries"

www.bsu.edu/library/indexjs.html

link, the researcher learns that the Bracken Library at Ball State holds Delaware County government records dating from 1827; local historical maps, photographs, and oral histories; and collections of data pertaining to local individuals, organizations, institutions, and businesses.

Web resources of state libraries are excellent complements to public and academic library resources online. Indeed, in many regions of the country, the searchable data files and growing number of digitized documents available on state library Web sites greatly outpace the robust public library offerings. The combination of sites can truly put tremendous amounts of useful data at your fingertips.

Since a public library is often the published materials repository for a local community, a state library typically engages in the same collection strategy, except its collection includes the entire state. Historically, state libraries have been known for their enormous newspaper collections, state and federal government document repositories, genealogy collections, and local history collections; and they are frequently named after the state in which the library exists. As state libraries craft their Web presences, they tend to focus on the same traditional strengths.

Finding and using state library Internet sites is relatively easy. There are a couple of Web sites that maintain

www.lib.de.us/libraries/otherlibs/statelib.shtml

active links to the country's state libraries, such as the Delaware State Library. Typing the name of the state in which you are researching and the words "state library" on any search engine should provide a link as well.

When you begin to explore a state library's Web site, browse the online catalog first. As with public libraries, the online catalog will provide a good idea of the collection's depth and will assist in compiling a research bibliography. Then look for links to major collections: newspapers, directories, genealogy, local history, etc. There are increasing numbers of finding aids, guides, and pathfinders mounted on these state library sites, and these guides provide detailed information about conducting historical research in the state. The number of databases and digital documents that are regularly added to state library sites is incredible.

The Indiana State Library Web site offers a database of known cemeteries in the state; a searchable data file of marriages before 1850; an Indiana biography file; the beginnings of a World War II database; and a directory of Indiana libraries.

The Michigan State Library, through the support of the Abrams Foundation (for which the historical collection is named), offers an array of online resources: a searchable 1870 census index for the state; a guided tour of the genealogy area; and a booklet on how to do genealogical research at the Library of Michigan. These offerings are topped off with a list of genealogical programs offered this year at the library.

© 2001 www.arttoday.com

The Library of Virginia, which functions as both the state library and the state archives, offers tremendous resources at its site, including many digital copies of actual documents. Its catalog and indexing is among the most descriptive for historical research purposes. The list of resources includes colonial Bible records, a death records indexing project, a number of obituary and other vital record indexes, eight digital initiatives (and growing) under the local public library projects section, and various biographical and special historical files.

State libraries are known for their enormous newspaper collections, state and federal government document repositories, genealogy collections, and local history collections.

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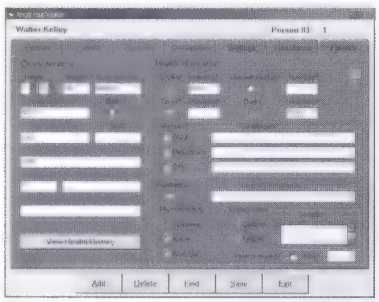

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The number of state libraries that have contracted with large information providers is also increasing, and includes such offerings as ProQuest and the Gale Group. These provide very contemporary business, consumer, health, and news information. The careful genealogy surfer, though, may be able to find some historical pearls among the contemporary data. For example, the Gale Group offers the "Biography and Genealogy Master Index" and "Associations Unlimited," while ProQuest makes an important digital contribution to family historians through its online "Genealogy and Local History Series."

All libraries—public, academic, and state—typically have access to large, national bibliographic databases. Bibliographic databases can be likened to large online catalogs that contain descriptive information about books, manuscripts, and other documents in libraries and institutions across the country. One of the best known of these bibliographic databases is OCLC's "WorldCat." As the name implies, this is one of the largest bibliographic databases in the world. When you are on a library's Web site, look for a link to "WorldCat" or "RLIN"—the two bibliographic databases typically found in libraries. Remember the old phrase, "Next to knowing is knowing where to find out." Large bibliographic databases can help you do that!

When exploring for national bibliographic databases, remember to keep an eye peeled for shared catalogs or shared-access databases. In many regions of the country, libraries pool resources to obtain access to data files or to create online catalogs that an individual library may not be able to afford. In some cases, these online catalogs have a more complete listing of specialized local holdings and more detailed information about unique local items than national bibliographic databases.

As the advancing frontiers of technology make more and more things possible, increasing numbers of libraries are beginning to offer patrons remote access to specialized, purchased data files. As an example, libraries that want to provide access to national bibliographic databases have to purchase annual licenses. In recent years, to use those bibliographic databases you would need to be inside a library facility that purchased such a license. Now, libraries are beginning to enable users to login with their library card numbers and gain access to the full range of electronic data without leaving their homes. Just imagine: a library wherever your computer happens to be!

In most states, anyone who is a resident of the state can obtain a state library card and a library card from the local state college or university. Occasionally, small annual fees are required for these cards, particularly in the academic environment; but the convenience of access to a world of electronic data is well worth it. Using libraries as your research partner puts the world of information at your fingertips! **G**

Curt B. Witcher, MLS, FUGA, is the department manager for the Historical Genealogy Department of the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He is president of the National Genealogical Society, a past president of the Federation of Genealogical Societies, and the founding president of the Indiana Genealogical Society. He is co-editor of the 1987 through 2001 editions of the PERiodical Source Index, *published by the Allen County Public Library Foundation. He can be reached by e-mail at Cwitcher@acpl.lib.in.us.*

Jewish Genealogy
on the Internet

By Gary Mokotoff

The Jewish genealogical presence on the Internet can be reduced to one word: JewishGen. JewishGen is the brainchild of Susan E. King and the product of more than a thousand volunteers who moderate discussion groups, create databases, establish educational programs, and maintain the other activities of this vast Web site. Most major Jewish genealogical organizations that are independent of JewishGen have their Internet presence under the JewishGen umbrella.

www.jewishgen.org

Two ways Jewish genealogical research is different from conventional American genealogy become evident when you visit the JewishGen site. First, because most Jews worldwide do not live in the same countries in which their ancestors resided 150 years ago, Jewish genealogical research has an international flavor. Linking up with researchers who share a common ancestor or common ancestral town possibly involves communicating with a person who lives in such diverse areas as France, Argentina, Australia, or Israel.

Second, soundexing is a necessary aspect of Jewish genealogical research. Surnames can be spelled in a variety of ways. (I have identified 140 spellings of the surname Lipshitz.) As the volatile political climate changed in central and eastern Europe, ancestral town names were spelled according to the custom of the conquering power. (Lemberg, Lwow, Lvov, L'viv are all names of the same western Ukrainian city, which has been in four different countries in the past 83 years.) All databases found on JewishGen have a Soundex search option that uses the Daitch-Mokotoff Soundex System rather than the conventional Soundex system. This system provides a number of significant advantages over the American system (see "Soundexing: Time for a Change," *GC* 20:3), and the version used by JewishGen favors Slavic and Germanic names.

Visiting the JewishGen home page provides an overview of the activities of this organization as well as the independent organizations it hosts. Readers familiar with RootsWeb will see that JewishGen's services parallel many of the services RootsWeb provides for American genealogy.

Databases

The most valuable component of the JewishGen site is its databases. Of general interest is the JewishGen Family Finder (JGFF), which contains surnames/towns being researched by more than 50,000 genealogists worldwide. Key in a surname or town of interest, and JGFF will display the names and addresses of any researchers who hold a similar interest. Also of general use is the Family Tree of the Jewish People, which contains more than 1 million names on family trees submitted by Jewish genealogists.

www.jewishgen.org/jgff/

www.jewishgen.org/gedcom/

Most other databases focus on specific geographic areas and are sponsored by special interest groups. Started in 1995, JRI-Poland (Jewish Record Indexing-

The Jewish genealogical presence on the Internet can be reduced to one word: JewishGen.

Poland) has the goal of indexing every 19th-century Jewish vital record of Poland. If you want your ancestral town's records indexed, volunteer to get it done. Hundreds of people have become involved in the project, and 1 million names have been indexed to date. The project began by indexing the microfilmed records at the LDS Family History Library and expanded when the group signed an agreement with the Polish State Archives that now provides copies of indexes to years not available at the Library.

www.jewishgen.org/JRI-PL

At the JRI-Poland site, researchers can search for a particular surname (Soundex or exact match) in the complete database or in specific provinces or towns. Using these search capabilities, I have identified birth records of persons named Mokotoff who were born in Radom, Poland, which is about 30 miles from the ancestral town of the family.

Similar, but less extensive databases exist in the All-Belarus Database, the All-Lithuanian Database and the All-Latvia Database. Volunteer groups are indexing documents in addition to vital records, including voter registration lists, tax and census lists, directories, cemetery lists, and even draft dodgers. A complete list of all databases located at JewishGen can be found online.

www.jewishgen.org/databases/belarus/

www.jewishgen.org/litvak/all.htm

www.jewishgen.org/databases/latvia/

The Family Tree of the Jewish People contains more than 1 million names.

www.jewishgen.org/databases/

Discussion Groups

JewishGen hosts 40 discussion groups—bulletin boards where subscribers can post messages that are viewed by group members. The main JewishGen discussion group has an estimated 5,000 subscribers. Every posting since September 1993 is available in the Discussion Group Archives. (You can link to it from the JewishGen home page.) If you are just getting started in Jewish ancestral research, visiting the Discussion Group Archives might help you discover postings from the past seven years that involve your area of interest. Most other discussion groups are oriented toward geographic areas of ancestry—the essence of Jewish genealogical research. Examples are Belarus, Bohemia/Moravia, Denmark, Galicia, Germany, Hungary, Latin America, Latvia, Litvak (Lithuania), Romania, and Ukraine. Other discussion groups involve specific ancestral towns. As proof that most American Jews are descendants of people who arrived recently in the United States, the Early American Discussion Group is specifically for people whose ancestors arrived in the United States before 1880.

www.jewishgen.org/JewishGen/DiscussionGroup.htm

www.jewishgen.org/listserv/sigs.htm

InfoFiles

Jewish genealogists throughout the world have contributed files of information on a variety of subjects. They are sub-categorized at the JewishGen site into Basics, Books & Periodicals, Cemeteries, Genealogical Techniques, Genealogists, Genetics, Holocaust, Immigration/Emigration, Internet Sources, JewishGen Sources, Libraries & Archives, Military, Miscellaneous, LDS (Mormon) Resources, Names, Postal Matters, Preservation, Seminars, Sephardim, Social Security, Special Interest Groups, Translation/Transliteration, Travel, and Vital Records. They are also categorized by country. There are a small number of data files on very specific subjects; one is a list of Jewish passengers on the *Titanic*. To date, there are more than 200 InfoFiles on JewishGen.

www.jewishgen.org/InfoFiles/

Other Projects

There are a host of other projects under the JewishGen umbrella that may be useful in your research, and the list is growing.

Burial Registry

www.jewishgen.org/databases/cemetery/

This project contains information about Jewish cemeteries throughout the world, plus a database of individual burials. (The site is currently being revamped.)

Family Links

www.jewishgen.org/family/

Here, researchers can find links to Web sites created by Jewish genealogists that provide information about their families.

Genealogy by Genetics

www.jewishgen.org/dna/

This site is a partnership with a DNA testing laboratory to establish familial relationships through DNA testing.

Holocaust Global Registry

www.jewishgen.org/Registry/

This site is for Holocaust survivors, for survivors searching for family members, and for child survivors who are searching for clues to their identity.

Meetings

www.jewishgen.org/interactive/meet_enter.html

Here, researchers will find a list of meetings of interest to Jewish-Geners.

Publication Database

www.jewishgen.org/interactive/publi_main.html

This site identifies publications of interest for Jewish genealogical researchers.

ShtetLinks

www.jewishgen.org/ShtetLinks/

These are Web pages devoted to information and pictures of individual communities.

ShtetlSchleppers

www.jewishgen.org/ShtetlSchleppers

Researchers will find information on planned trips to ancestral towns in Europe.

Web Links

www.jewishgen.org/links/

This site provides hundreds of links to other sites, organized into 32 categories.

Yizkor Book Project

www.jewishgen.org/Yizkor/

This is a project to facilitate access to yizkor books (Holocaust memorial books) and their contents. It includes databases, translations of portions of yizkor books, InfoFiles, a discussion group, and links to other sites of interest to this group.

ViewMate

www.jewishgen.org/ViewMate/

ViewMate is the most recent addition to JewishGen. Here, researchers can post scanned images of documents and ask other researchers to help them translate or analyze the contents.

Tools

www.jewishgen.org/jos/

The Web site contains handy tools that will:

- convert a Hebrew date to the secular calendar and vice versa
- display the dates of all Jewish holidays for any year
- compute the distance between two

There are a host of other projects under the JewishGen umbrella that may be useful in your research.

As archives and institutions recognize that a growing number of their patrons are family historians, they have developed Internet sites that address the needs of genealogists. For Jewish researchers, these include:

American Jewish Archives <www.huc.edu/aja/collect.htm#gen>

American Jewish Hist. Society <www.ajhs.org/reference/GeneoInst.cfm>

Center for Jewish History <www.cjh.org/family/index.html>

Leo Baeck Institute <www.lbi.org/family.html>

YIVO Inst. for Jewish Research <www.yivoinstitute.org/archlib/archlib_fr.htm>

Beth Hatefutsoth <www.bh.org.il/Genealogy/index.asp>

coordinates on the earth in either miles or kilometers
- and, provide the Daitch-Mokotoff Soundex code and the American Soundex code for any word—typically a surname or town name.

IAJGS

The International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies, an organization independent of

www.jewishgen.org/ajgs/

JewishGen, is a confederation of some 80 Jewish genealogical societies throughout the world (58 in the United States and Canada). IAJGS sponsors the annual International Conference on Jewish Genealogy each summer. Last year's conference took place in Salt Lake City. This year the conference will take place in London. A list of IAJGS member societies is located at the site.

Funding

JewishGen is a tax exempt

www.jewishgen.org/Jewishgen-erosity

501(c)3 organization funded primarily through contributions to

www.jewishgen.org/JewishGenMall/index.ihtml

its JewishGen-erosity program. Funds are also raised by the sale of products at the JewishGen Mall and other affiliations with commercial ventures.

Other Internet Sources for Jewish Genealogy

www.avotaynu.com

Avotaynu is the publisher of *Avotaynu: The International Review of Jewish Genealogy* and a number of books of interest to

www.avotaynu.com/csi/csi?home.html

genealogists with Jewish ancestors. It also hosts the Consolidated Jewish Surname Index, a database of 230,000 surnames in 28 databases that are Jewish or mostly Jewish entries. Avotaynu also publishes a free biweekly e-zine, *Nu? What's New?* G

Gary Mokotoff is the first person to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies. He is the author of books of interest to Jewish genealogists, the co-creator of the Daitch-Mokotoff Soundex System, and the developer of a number of the early databases for Jewish genealogy, including the predecessors to the JewishGen Family Finder and the Family Tree of the Jewish People. He can be reached by e-mail at mokotoff@earthlink.net.

The Fine Art of *Choosing an ISP*

By Rhonda R. McClure

Genealogists are always looking for new methods to aid their research, and the Internet is definitely among the new tools aiding research. Of course, to take advantage of the information on the Internet, it is necessary to have an Internet Service Provider (ISP). Whether you're looking into an Internet service for the first time or considering changing providers, following are some points to keep in mind when choosing an ISP.

Cost and Availability

For many genealogists, the cost of the service is the deciding factor. There is only so much money we can spend in the pursuit of our ancestry. As such, it is important to look around and see what is available and how much it costs.

As you compare Internet Service Providers, you will find that there are some standard pricing structures. These are often based on the type of connection (speed) you want.

A standard dial-up Internet connection (which supports up to a 56K data transfer rate) usually costs somewhere between $16.95 and $19.95 a month. For this monthly charge, you will likely receive an e-mail account and perhaps even a small amount of Web space. There may also be a limit to the total number of hours you can spend online each month, although some companies are now offering unlimited usage options.

ISDN is the next connection speed level; however, such a connection is usually more expensive. In addition to a higher monthly fee—usually about $40—there is also a charge from the phone company because the ISDN modem requires a special connection.

DSL and cable modems are the next level. Each of these options has a constant connection to the Internet. DSL is a modem that goes through the phone system. Providers that offer this connection charge around $50 a month. A cable modem is available through cable television companies. The cost of a cable modem and service is approximately $40 a month. While there are many options for connecting to the Internet, they may not all be available in your area. DSL and cable modems are relatively new and are available only in certain localities.

Some Internet Service Providers offer reduced rates if a customer is willing to prepay for a three- or twelve-month period. Usually this special rate is advertised on the ISP's Web site. If you speak with a representative from the company, you may want to ask about this discount.

Don't avoid an ISP just because you can't afford the faster speeds. While it may not be important now, it is a good idea to have upgrade options for the future.

Life of the Company

One issue few people consider when choosing an ISP is the length of time the company has been in business. It is true that most companies offering Internet dial-up connections are relatively young compared to other industries. However, when compared to each other, it is plain

For many genealogists, the cost of the service is the deciding factor. There is only so much money we can spend in the pursuit of our ancestry.

that some have been in business much longer than others.

Generally, it is a good idea to go with a provider that has been in business for a while. Experienced providers understand the growing pains of serving a new market. They have a better understanding of the issues that can occur in the normal day-to-day traffic with their servers. They have also dealt with and devised plans of operation when there are connection problems with the phone company.

Local vs. National Providers

Another factor to keep in mind when deciding on a provider is your travel needs. If you rarely travel, you may not be concerned about your access options. You can choose either a local or national provider. But if you are a genealogical lecturer or a professional genealogist who travels often, you may not want to be without an Internet connection when you travel. If this is your situation, look for an ISP that offers more than just local access numbers.

Some local providers offer toll-free access, which is an alternative when traveling. Keep in mind, though, that such an option is a cost to the provider and is passed on to the user. You may find that the toll-free access has a per-minute or per-hour charge associated with it. Even a low charge can add up if you are away for a week at a conference and you log in each evening.

If you're a professional genealogist or lecturer who travels often, you may not want to be without an Internet connection when you travel.

There is another factor that may contribute to your choice between a local or national provider. If you travel a lot, having national coverage is important; however, national providers may not offer a local phone number when you are using your Internet connection from home. National providers sometimes offer dial-up numbers for larger cities, but that number may be a toll call if you live in a smaller town or suburb.

User Ratio

Evening hours are the busiest for dial-up companies. People come home from work, eat dinner, and head for the computer. The peak Internet hours are generally between 7 and 11 P.M.

If the ISP you are considering does not offer DSL, consider the number of users dialing in to a given modem. It is this ratio that may result in busy signals when you try to dial up in the evenings. If the ISP you are considering has a high user-to-modem ratio, you can expect to get busy signals much of the time.

Ask a representative of your prospective ISP about the company's user-to-modem ratio. Anything higher than 10:1 is too high. The ISP representative may hesitate before answering this question or may not answer at all; it is information ISPs do not like to give out.

Online Services

Up to this point, we have talked specifically about ISPs. However, there are also online services, such as AOL, CompuServe, and Prodigy, that offer Internet access.

This access may differ from regular dial-up services. Online companies offer internal options for their members. In the infancy of online communications, these "gated" ISPs first drew genealogists to sign up. But now, even though the various community areas are still available, many of the members spend most of their time surfing the Web.

As mentioned, these online services offer access to the Internet through a gateway. That is, one can access the Internet only through community channels. These channels can be either helpful or irritating to get past, depending on your specific Internet usage needs and experience. Keep that in mind as you consider a gated ISP.

Also, like the national dial-up providers, these online services offer a number of access numbers. They may not have one that is local if you are living in a small town.

Free ISPs

In the last year or so, new options have become available for people seeking less expensive Internet access. The free ISPs offer just that—free access to

the Internet. Of course, while you do not have to pay to get on the Internet (provided that the phone connection is local), you do pay in other ways. Free dial-ups are feasible only through the support of advertising dollars, and such providers include an advertisement section in the browser window. Some ISPs will log you off if you close the ad window. Furthermore, the ads can bog down the connection even more, making download time and page loading time begin to add up.

The other major risk with free ISPs is that they may fold or merge with another provider over time (according to recent business history). Free ISP users may need to become accustomed to notifying contacts of their changed e-mail address.

If you seek faster access, consider one of the other options. Generally, free Internet Service Providers only offer modem speeds of up to 56K.

Finding What's Available

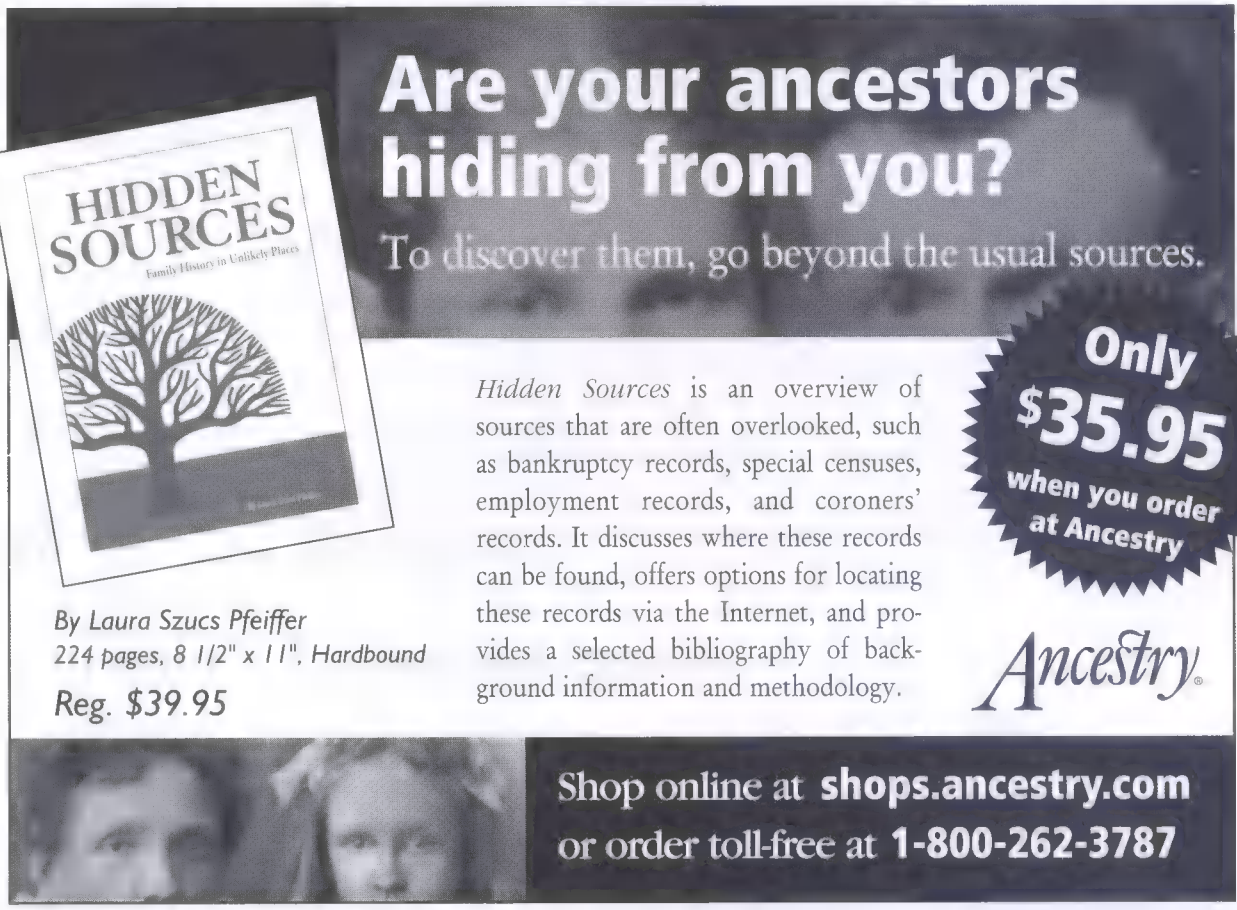
There are a couple of sites you should visit to access information about specific Internet access companies. These sites will provide information on cost and speed, as well as some of the other issues discussed in this article. The List is the definitive ISP buyers' guide. Commweb's ISPs.com allows you to search more than 5,000 Internet Service Providers. See what Internet Service Providers fit your criteria.

www.thelist.com

www.isps.com

Free dial-ups are feasible only through the support of advertising dollars.

Rhonda R. McClure is a regular contributor to Genealogical Computing *and* Ancestry *Magazine. She is the author of* The Complete Idiot's Guide to Online Genealogy *and editor of the* Family Tree Finders *e-mail newsletter. She can be reached by e-mail at rhondam@thegenealogist.com.*



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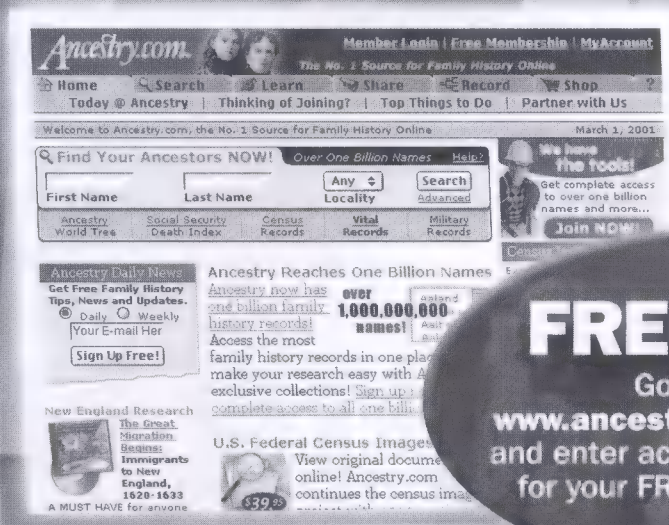

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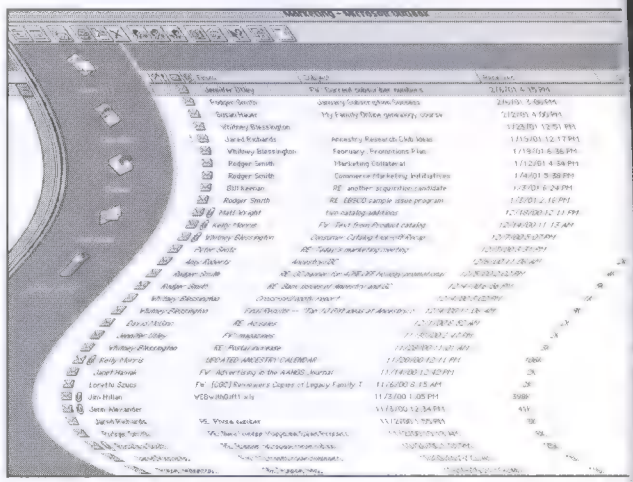
Drew Smith, MLS



Keeping Afloat in the E-mail Flood

Voice mail doesn't scare me. At home, I rarely get more than one or two messages a week. At work, I might get two or three messages a day. In both cases, information comes in slowly enough that it is easy to manage. But e-mail is an entirely different story. I probably receive an average of more than 100 messages a day from students, faculty, university staff, family, friends, acquaintances, fellow genealogists, and a large number of mailing lists. And junk, lots and lots of junk. How can anyone begin to manage such a deluge of electronic correspondence? I don't have all the answers, but I'd like to share some basic techniques that may help you manage your e-mail flood.

Divide and Conquer

When faced with anything big and confusing, the first step is to analyze it and then divide it into smaller, more manageable pieces. Those of us who work outside the home (or who have a home-based business) usually have a work phone number in addition to a home phone number. When we answer one of our phones, we already know the type of call we will receive. This helps keep us focused on what we are doing, instead of having to mentally switch back and forth between our work and personal affairs.

In the same way, it is useful to have more than one e-mail address. I have one for my full-time university position, so when I check that address for messages, I know it will contain messages related to my university job, with rare exception. I have another e-mail address for nearly everything else, including other work, personal genealogical research, and correspondence with family and friends. Finally, I use a third e-mail address for correspondence with a very prolific circle of friends/acquaintances who enjoy sharing their views on everything from food to politics.

By using several different e-mail addresses, I am able to prioritize my responses. I can check my university account several times a day (especially during the work week), my primary personal account at least once a day, and my third account less often, depending on my time demands. But in order to make this system work, you may need to re-direct a message from one of your accounts to another, and remind your correspondents of the best e-mail address to use.

Another advantage of using several e-mail addresses is that each one can easily have its own signature file. These days, most e-mail software supports an automated e-mail "signature" feature, usually a set of one to four lines that is automatically appended to the end of every outgoing message. At a minimum, a good signature file will contain your name and e-mail address. For a work account, it will probably include an organization name (with department) and a work phone number. You won't do anyone a favor by including research surnames in your e-mail signatures, since people who receive and save your e-mail may later use one of those names

What do you do when e-mail messages come in faster than you can manage them —like 100-plus messages a day?

as a search term (they will not be thrilled to see each of your messages pop up when they were really trying to find a different message). This is especially true if you are sending e-mail to an archived mailing list.

Filters Aren't Just for Cars

E-mail software in the 21st-century possesses another useful feature for the drowning e-mail user: the ability to filter. The first step in dealing with e-mail sent to one of your particular e-mail addresses is to block the reception of unwanted material. For example, if you receive your e-mail through America Online, you have a number of options. You can choose to block all e-mail sent to the account. This is useful if you use one of your AOL screen names exclusively to participate in chat rooms and/or message boards. On systems such as AOL, those who send out spam (unsolicited junk e-mail) often obtain their e-mail addresses by looking at the participant lists of chats or message postings.

Apart from blocking all e-mail, you can choose instead to selectively block (or accept) e-mail from particular individuals or Internet domains. Because AOL allows you to create up to seven screen names on one account, you might adopt a strategy of having one "private" account and one "public" account. On the private account, set up the filters so the only mail you receive will come from a short list of individuals (family, friends, fellow genealogical researchers). In the public account, you could get e-mail from nearly anyone. This would allow you to give higher priority to the e-mail in the private account.

E-mail software possesses a very useful feature for the drowning e-mail user: the ability to filter.

Filters allow you to block e-mail from abusive individuals. With some e-mail software, you can even filter messages that contain certain words in the subject or body. This would help reduce the amount of objectionable material in your mailbox. Microsoft *Outlook* 2000 has such a feature, and it allows you to customize the list of phrases commonly found in commercial or adult spam.

At this point, you may be worrying that automated systems might accidentally filter out a message you wanted to receive. But another way of using filters is to have incoming e-mail routed into one or more special folders. This is a good solution in those cases where you are using only one e-mail address. For instance, you can have the filter look for the e-mail addresses of your family and friends and route all of those incoming messages into a "high priority" folder. You can have other messages routed into a "normal" folder, and still others into a "probably objectionable" folder. The decision on how to route can be based upon the e-mail address of the sender, a word or term appearing in the subject line, or a word or term appearing in the body of the message.

As a genealogist, you may want to seriously consider creating different folders for different surnames and then filtering the incoming messages into the appropriate folder. For instance, if you are a subscriber to an electronic mailing list for a given surname, you may want to automatically route all of those messages to the appropriate surname folder. If you are already exchanging e-mail with another researcher about a particular surname, you could route all of that person's e-mail into the same surname folder.

Some e-mail software, such as Microsoft *Outlook* 2000, allows you to create additional ways to identify and categorize incoming e-mail. With *Outlook*, you can have certain messages flagged or marked with a particular color. This gives you new ways to prioritize and categorize your incoming e-mail.

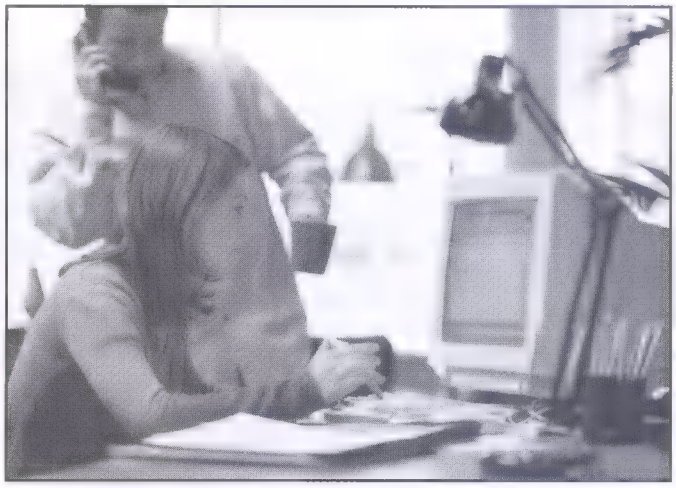
That Annoying Spam

One of the most aggravating aspects of reading e-mail is plowing through all the spam. But there are ways to minimize the amount you get (besides the already mentioned filtering techniques). First and foremost, never respond to a piece of junk e-mail, even if it claims to provide you with a mechanism for removing your address from the list.

Those who collect and sell lists of e-mail addresses to spammers are looking for active addresses, and your response merely notifies them that they've found an active address. The only exception to this rule is if the e-mail is coming from a highly reputable company or organization that you recognize.

Some Internet service providers, such as AOL, use technology to block spam before it reaches your inbox. They are also creating lawsuits to make spamming less attractive.

If you are a subscriber to an electronic mailing list managed by RootsWeb, you'll be happy to know that these lists automatically block spam. (I shudder to think how much spam we'd get if it weren't for these preventive measures.)



Speaking of Lists

Many genealogists are subscribers to genealogy-oriented mailing lists, such as those centered on particular surnames or geographic areas. While some lists are so inactive that you are surprised when you actually receive a message, others have been known to generate more than 100 messages a day. All it takes is subscribing to a small number of moderately active lists before you find yourself overwhelmed with messages. What techniques can you use that apply specifically to mailing lists?

Never subscribe to more than one new mailing list at the same time. In other words, subscribe to a new list and wait a few days to see how active that list is before you subscribe to another. I know of an individual who was new to the idea of mailing lists and subscribed to three lists, not knowing that all three were extremely active. When she checked her e-mail a few days later, she found to her horror that she had eight hundred new messages awaiting her.

Be very judicious about which lists you subscribe to. For each list, ask yourself if you really need to receive the messages from it, especially if the list is automatically archived on a convenient Web site somewhere. Perhaps the best question to ask yourself is, "What percentage of messages from this list is likely to be of interest to me?" If your answer is "very low," a better strategy may be to periodically visit the list's archive to search for items of interest, instead of receiving a large number of messages that are of no use to you.

If you'd rather not take the time to search list archives and you want to subscribe to the list, employ the previously mentioned filtering features. Examine the incoming messages for relevant names or places; automatically place items of interest in one folder (or mark or flag them in some other way), and either delete the remaining messages or filter them into a different folder for lower priority items.

Most mailing lists provide the option of receiving the messages combined into a single "digest" instead of as separate messages. For a highly active list, using digest mode will result in a dramatic difference in the number of messages you find in your inbox every day.

More about Folders

Even if you have spam under control and your incoming messages are automatically categorized by various e-mail addresses or folders, you will still have messages to deal with. You may want to begin by sorting your mailbox in a different order. Typically, messages appear in your mailbox in the order in which you received them. (Often, you can choose whether the newest messages will

After subscribing to a new list, wait a few days to see how active that list is before you subscribe to another. You may be overwhelmed with e-mail messages.

Consider sorting your e-mails into folders according to the name of the sender or by topic.

appear first or last.) You might consider sorting them according to the name of the sender. This can make it easier to pick out the name of a boss, co-worker, family member, or close friend whose e-mail you want to read first. Or you may have the option of sorting by subject line, which would make it easier to go directly to the messages of immediate interest to you.

As you open each message, you'll find that some are of no interest and can be safely deleted; some provide information, but require no response (depending on the nature of the information, you may want to print these out and/or save them into another folder); and some require a response. If you are unable or unwilling to respond immediately, you may want to create a separate 'To Be Answered" folder to save such messages.

If you have discovered other useful techniques for managing your e-mail, feel free to send them my way. By the time you write me, I hope to have my own e-mail much more under control! **G**

Drew Smith, MLS, is an instructor at the University of South Florida in Tampa, where he teaches library/ Internet research skills and genealogical librarianship. He is the webmaster and listowner for Librarians Serving Genealogists. He is also a past leader of the Genealogy and Local History Interest Group of the Florida Library Association. Drew can be reached by e-mail at DrewSmith@aol.com.

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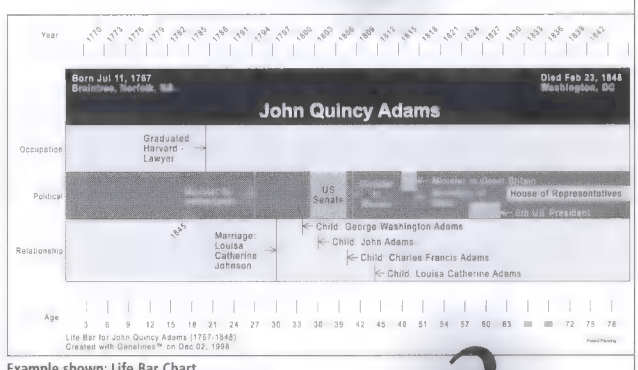
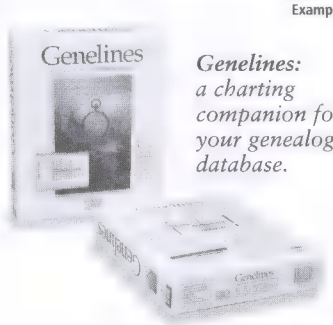


Example shown: Life Bar Chart

2 Select your ancestor.

3 Choose one of five chart types and click OK.



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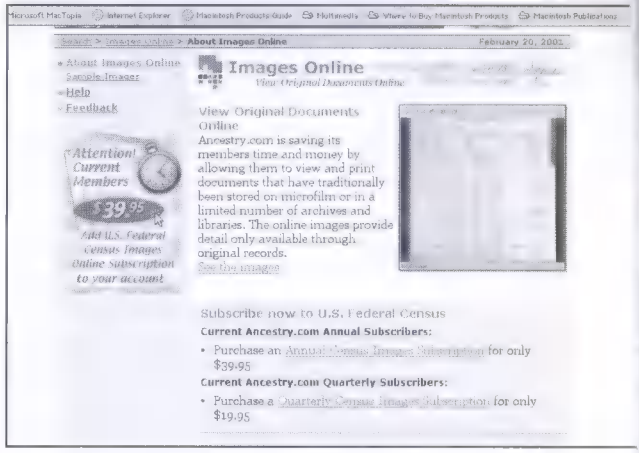


If you've been researching genealogy for even just a little while, you've discovered that a census record is often the rope that helps you scale the brick wall of an elusive ancestor's identity. To that end, genealogy Web sites have started making original census records available as images online.

For two weeks in December, all of Ancestry.com's one billion records in 3,000 databases were free to search. The free-access time, which included access to the U.S. Federal Census images, was a genuine boon to researchers. Scanned at 256 shades of gray for greatest clarity, these images of original records are an important resource for the family historian.

These images can be viewed in either HTML format or by using a special browser plug-in called MrSID, which enhances the images' navigation. The images are legible in HTML, but if you want the benefits of the plug-in, you must have:

- Windows 95+ or Macintosh OS 7.5+
- Netscape 4.08 or IE 4.0 browsers+

The image interface does not support WebTV or any other Internet utility or plug-in.

For $60 a year ($40 if you are already an Ancestry.com member), you can gain access to these records (population schedules only). The extra fee is necessary because of the high quality of the images, which cost Ancestry a pretty penny to produce and store.

The images will all eventually be linked to indexes, which will make the content searchable. However, currently only the 1790 Census is linked to an online index. The other censuses are browseable by state, county, township, and/or enumeration district. Here's how a searchable index works:

First, go to the Images Online page under the Learn tab at ancestry.com.

www.ancestry.com/search/io/main.htm

This page lists the census years currently available and provides links to install the MrSid plug-in. You can either click on specific years to browse the census collections or search indexed years by using the "Search Images Online" template. When you search for a given and last name, a screen listing of all the collections that have a match will come up. At this point, you will be asked to enter your username and password.

In my case, a search for William Powell turned up 15 matches in the 1790 Federal Census, two matches in

The census images at Ancestry.com will eventually be linked to indexes, which will make the content more searchable.

Subscriptions	# of Databases	# of Records	Price
Annual Subscription*	3,000+	Over 1 Billion	$59.95/yr ($19.95/qtr)
Census Images	All states and years**	450 Million	$59.95/yr ($19.95/qtr)

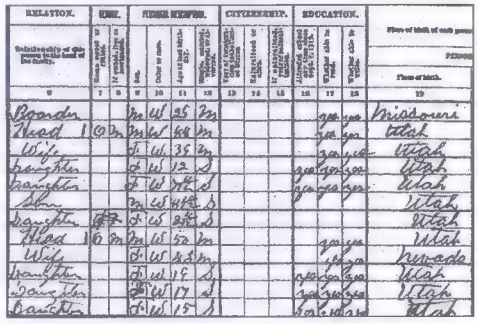
*Including the 1890 Census Substitute. **This is a work in progress that will include corresponding census indexes when completed. Indexes and images for the U.S. Federal Census population schedules are being added to the site regularly.

The census images are not the only scanned original records at Ancestry.com. The Civil War Pension Index is also posted.

the Laurens County, South Carolina 1800 Census, and 13 matches in the South Carolina Censuses of 1790–1890.

To begin, I thought I'd look at the 1790 Federal Census, hoping to find some clue about the parents of my ancestor William Reason Powell, who was born in 1802.

My first step was to download the MrSid viewer plug-in. This program allows you to look at both the full image and enlarged portions of it. It took about five minutes to download, and it worked with both Microsoft *Internet Explorer* and *Netscape Navigator*. You can zoom



in on specific parts of an image or, with a click, get a full-screen view of the whole page or any part of it. You can also print from this viewer, which is a nice feature, since the plug-in is free.

The unusual thing about the 1790 Census is that it was so free form. The census workers were instructed to record the name of the head of the family, the number of free white males 16 years and older in the household, the number of free white males under 16 years in the household, the household's number of free white females, the number of all other free persons, the number of slaves, and, in some cases, the town or district of residence. The only names recorded, however, were the heads of families, and enumerators had to supply their own paper because there was no standardized form. The 1790 census is therefore mostly useful for finding out where to look for other records, such as wills, land deeds, and church records.

The plug-in enhances readability; however, while zooming in on the image allows you to read the images more clearly, the column headings disappear. I found it useful to write down the column headings and then scroll around looking for my names. The screen redraws took quite a bit of time with my 56K dial-up connection.

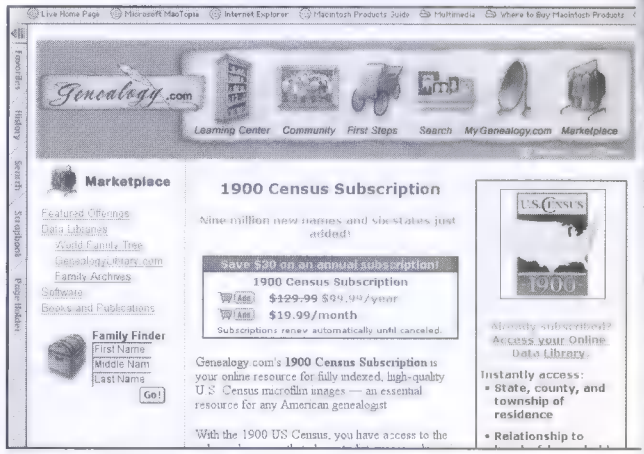
In December, this database of census images contained the entire 1790 U.S. Federal Census. The 1920 Census is also online now (except for poorly scanned images that had to be sent back to be rescanned), and much of the 1900 Census has also been posted. Ancestry.com will continue to post census images on a weekly basis until the collection is complete.

In the Images Online collection, you will currently find only population schedules. Of the various census schedules, genealogists usually consider these to be the most valuable. But Ancestry.com is aware that there is also legitimate research value in other census schedules—manufacturing, agricultural, social, etc. According to Ancestry.com, these schedules may be included at some future date, depending on a continuing evaluation of their value versus other worthy genealogical document collections, the cost to scan and index them, customer demand, and so forth.

At present, the census images are not the only scanned original records on the site. Ancestry.com has already posted another Images Online project: the Civil War Pension Index (an index and images of some 2.5 million index cards to U.S. Federal Pension case files from 1861 to 1934).

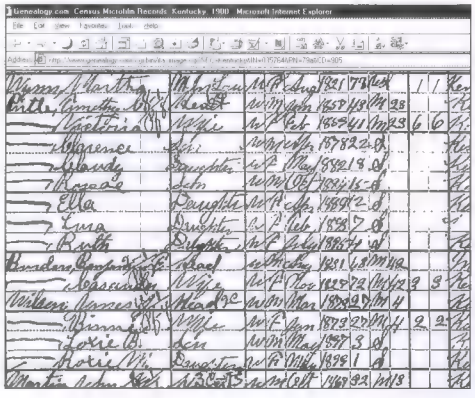
Overall, the census images deliver on their promise. The quality is excellent, both in viewing the images online and in printing them out. The 256 levels of gray truly do make a difference. The images are also easy to use, as the site gives you query templates, navigation helps, results screens, and how-to assistance. The content is what every researcher would want: a view of the original document without the wear and tear on either the document or the researcher that handling the original would entail. **G**

Elizabeth Powell Crowe



Genealogy.com's Census Access

I squinted carefully at the cramped writing. Yes, that was definitely "Pirtle, Timothy." There, five lines below, at age 12, was Ella, my husband's great-grandmother. It had taken some doing, but I found her in the 1900 U.S. Federal Census of Kentucky on Genealogy.com. Since this lady died in 1986 and I knew her personally, I was certain I had found the record of her family at the beginning of the 20th century. When she died, no one in the family could remember the exact year of her birth. If the census was correct, I now knew!



Fascinating details were collected for my family in that census: Timothy was born in Kentucky, as were his father and mother. He was the head of the household, white, male, born January 1858, age 43 in 1900, and age 23 when he married. His occupation was listed as "Commercial" something, but I couldn't read the second word. He could read and write, and he rented and farmed his land.

The online images of the census are part of the "pay-per-view" collection at Genealogy.com (see table below). Family Archives includes a variety of family history information, from historical census records to indexed page images of the leading genealogy research publications of the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries. The Kentucky 1900 census is just part of the collection.

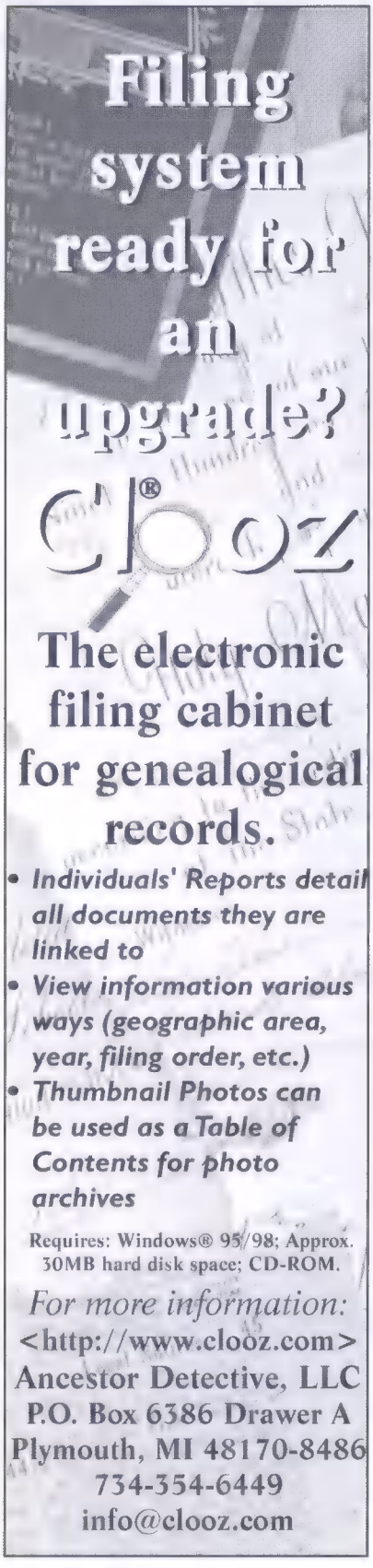
Finding My Needle in the Right Haystack

Signing on to my account on Genealogy.com, I was presented with my list of subscribed databases. You can search across all the databases and get results for both the ones you have paid to access and the ones you have not. Of course, a convenient link on the search page allows you to subscribe to those databases that have hits for your search and that you haven't yet purchased.

You can search across all the databases and get results for both the ones you have paid to access and the ones you have not.

Subscriptions	Databases	Records	Price
1900 Census	24 states	52 million	$129.99/yr ($19.99/mo.)
Int'l & Passenger Records	14	7+ million	$129.99/yr ($19.99/mo.)
World Family Tree	190,000 family trees	120 million	$79.99/yr ($19.99/mo.)
GenealogyLibrary.com	3,000+*	N/A	$79.99/yr ($9.99/mo.)

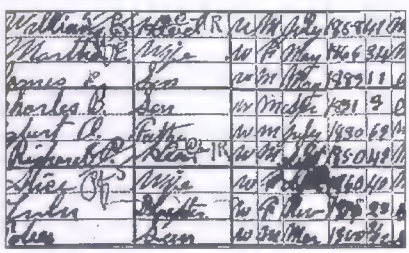
* Plus thousands of rare family history books (three new books added per day)



Simply searching for one of my surnames of interest across all these databases didn't yield the same result as searching for a name in one database. For example, searching for "Ella Pirtle" across all Internet Family Archives found one match in Tennessee, but no matches in Kentucky. When I narrowed my search to the Kentucky 1900 Census microfilm only, Ella Pirtle suddenly appeared.

Clicking on the link to a record of interest takes you to a page with the image enlarged and embedded in the window. No special viewer is required. If you want to print the image, you click on a link and get the image itself, which is scaled to 8" x 11". If the name you wanted is not apparent at first, click "Next Image" and/or "Previous Image," because sometimes one page in the original record was scanned into two images for clarity.

The higher I set my monitor's resolution, the better I was able to read the images. At 1600x1200 pixels of true color, however, I still could not read the handwriting to decipher the second word of the occupation, nor the informational headline of Column 28 of the form. Some pages are more legible



than this one, and some less, of course. And you'll notice from the screen shot above that the pen blotted some of the information further down on the page.

The advantages are obvious: the computer monitor is more convenient than traveling to a regional branch of the National Archives and Records Administration—for most of us. If the image still isn't quite legible, at least now you know the exact record, and you can view the microfilm later to try to make sense of it further.

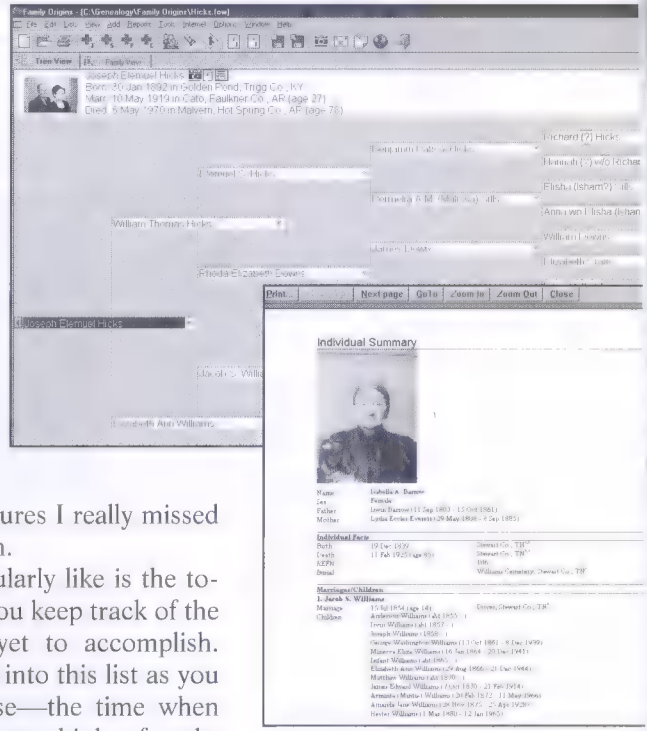
The process was a little frustrating, however. As I noted, if I didn't know Great-Gramma Ella's place of birth, I would not have gotten very far. Finding her was not just luck. I knew her maiden name; I also knew she was born in Kentucky. So I searched specifically in that database to find her family in 1900. Now that I know her father's name was Timothy, I can search other census records and genealogies for him. So I guess the census did take me a bit farther back.

Another disadvantage is that if you are searching for someone across all the databases, the default search is for name only. Even if you click "Advanced Search" to narrow it by location or time, you will still get hundreds of hits. And when you get those hundreds of hits, you have to browse through them one page at a time. If you know you are looking for William Reason Powell and you get 1,221 hits, you can't jump forward to the "William R." Powells; you have to get there by browsing. The webmasters at Genealogy.com could easily fix this, and I hope they do. **G**

Elizabeth Powell Crowe is the author of several books, including Genealogy Online AOL Edition. *She also wrote* Information for Sale *with John Everett and* The Electronic Traveller, *both for McGraw-Hill. She has been a contributing editor for* Computer Currents *magazine and author of numerous articles in both popular and technical publications. She can be reached by e-mail at libbic@prodigy.net.*

Betty Clay

Family Origins 9.0



Family Origins has been on my computers for many years—since version 2.0, in fact. I first found it when it was offered as a shareware program. Since that time, I've had a keen interest in the program and have watched its progress over the years. It is always on the list of programs I recommend when someone asks me about genealogy software.

Features

Family Origins 9.0 is a full-featured genealogy program—too full for a brief review to cover everything. I will only attempt to cover the features that are a bit unusual, or that are especially well done. The program can create a full personal history of each person entered, allowing for unlimited facts or events for each person, along with documentation of sources and a note or text file. It can handle traditional families, but also manages other relationships, such as adoptions, foster parents, and parents who are not married. Photos, sound files, and video clips (should you be fortunate enough to have them) can be linked to each individual and to places and events in the database.

Entering data is not really fun in any genealogy software. *Family Origins* will not enter the data for you, but it will make data entry faster and simpler than in most programs. Once you've entered a person, you can enter all of his or her siblings on a single screen. Most of the information about any person can be entered on a single screen. One feature I did not find, however, was the automatic repetition of place names, which would be used repeatedly in entering a family. Citations and sources can be pasted into new records, but if this feature exists for place names, I didn't find it. That is one of the few features I really missed in using this program.

A feature I particularly like is the to-do list, which helps you keep track of the research you have yet to accomplish. Items can be entered into this list as you browse your database—the time when you are most likely to think of tasks you'd like to accomplish. The list can be printed out before you make a research trip. It can be printed in its entirety, for one person, or for the repository you plan to visit. This capability exists in other genealogy software, but *Family Origins* makes it especially easy to do.

Documentation and management of sources is another particularly nice feature of *Family Origins*. You are allowed both notes and sources for each person, for each family, and for each fact or event listed under each person. Most of us use the "notes" for recording stories, details, and perhaps even our reasoning about this event. The "source" is for documenting the book, certificate, Bible, or other place the information was found.

A source manager is an important part of the documentation capabilities of this program. You can call up a list of all your sources, scroll through them, edit any that need editing, select one you wish to cite, and easily find any source you have recorded. You can also quote a source once and then use the citation field to point to different pages or parts

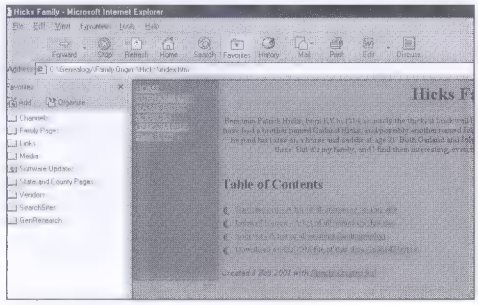
INFORMATION

System Requirements:
486 PC or above; Windows 95, 98, NT or higher; 8 MB RAM; 6 MB free hard-drive space; 2x CD-ROM drive.

FormalSoft, Inc.
P.O. Box 495
Springville, UT 84663
800-327-2317
$29.95, plus shipping

www.formalsoft.com

of the source when needed. Each citation will provide a place to give your assessment of the accuracy of the information you found, an indication if whether it was clearly readable, and other items that will help you determine and recall the reliability of the facts.



Sample Web site created in Family Origins

Yet another unusual feature of *Family Origins* is the ability to place a number of databases side by side on the screen. Up to nine databases can be open at any one time, although the more you open, the narrower the screen space becomes. You can drag and drop information from one database to another, making it easy to combine the data from someone else's files with your own. With a single click, you can choose to drag and drop just one individual, everyone related to that individual, just the immediate family, all of the ancestors, all of the descendants, and more.

One of the most useful features is a "family finder" that will search Web sites and CDs and list the ones that may have information on your family.

Special Internet Features

Family Origins can create a Web site from the data you have entered, including any photos, notes, sources, surname listings, GEDCOM files, and e-mails you wish to include. You can preview the site using your Internet browser before you post it, and you can upload it to the *Family Origins* home page or to a site provided by your Internet Service Provider. You are also given control over the borders, colors, and other features.

One of the most useful of the new features is a "family finder" that will search Web sites and CDs and list the ones that may have information on your family. A family reunion planner is also a part of the program now.

Navigation

The ability to quickly navigate through a program is extremely important to its ease of use. *Family Origins* is perhaps the easiest of all programs to navigate and edit. I love the "Explorer" that is built into it. By clicking on the search icon (a flashlight on the tool bar at the top of the screen), a list of all individuals in the database is displayed at the left of a window. Icons at the top of this window help you locate individuals within the list, display photos or notes linked to the individual or family, or display your sources for this person or family. All the information you have becomes readily available and editable. If you change the spelling of a place, you can make the same correction to that place throughout your database. New to this version is a droplist for spouse(s), parents, and children of the highlighted person. This list further increases the ease of navigation.

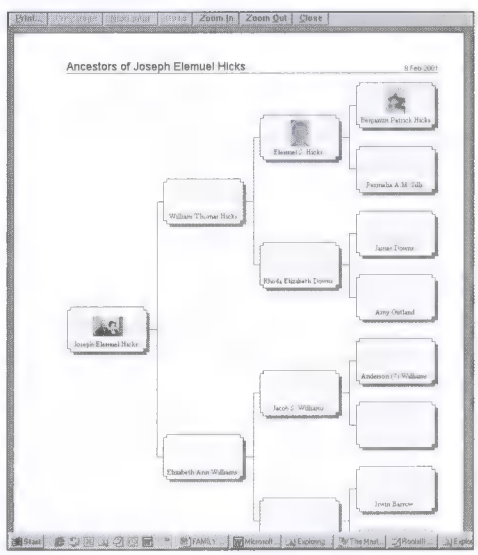


Photo pedigree chart

When any individual is highlighted, all of the information about that individual is displayed in two windows and can be edited there. One window holds all the facts about that individual; another lists parents, siblings, spouse(s), and children. In checking out this feature, I located a couple inaccurately recorded without a link or a marriage. I clicked on

the name of the husband and was returned to the regular editing screen so I could add a spouse. I was allowed to link him to the wife who already existed in the database and then add their marriage information. When I selected the Explorer again, it opened to the place I had been working. What a wonderful feature! Could it be simpler?

Reports and Printouts

Family Origins can print out all of the standard genealogical charts and forms, including blank forms to be sent with queries or handed out at family gatherings. Charts can be printed with photos and attractive borders, and a choice of colors and several wall charts are available. Family calendars and anniversary charts are additional options. There are even form letters you can use to request help from family members or other individuals; to order forms such as birth, marriage, and death certificates from bureaus of vital statistics or other institutions; and to request general information about an institution and how it can help your research. These can be printed automatically, and you only need to enter the information specific to your request.

If you want to write a book, *Family Origins* can assist you with that you, too. When you enter data, you will be shown how the information will be printed if you have *Family Origins* print a book for you automatically. You can edit any fact, event type, or sentence globally, but I didn't find a way to edit sentences, should I want one to vary from the standard. *Family Origins* can print ancestral books or descendant books. You have great control over the events that will be included. If the selection offered in the program does not meet your need, there is also a custom report writer in which you can design your own selections. These books and other reports can now accommodate double-sided printing.

Demo

Most genealogy software can be tested by using a demo version before purchasing it. These demonstration versions, understandably, are always crippled in some way. A few omit some of the more advanced features. Some have all the features, but will not print. Some permit the use of a sample database, but don't permit data entry. Others limit the number of people that can be entered. The *Family Origins* demo is one of the latter. All features are available to the demo user, but only a maximum of 50 people can be entered. I like this method because it allows the user to test every feature and learn whether the program works according to his or her needs. One cannot test the ease of data entry or the layout of reports if one cannot enter data or print reports. A demo version of *Family Origins* 9.0 can be downloaded online. **G**

Family Origins
can print out all the standard genealogical charts and forms.

Betty Clay is a retired math teacher. She has been doing genealogical research for more than 30 years and attends numerous conventions and institutes in order to improve her skills. She began her writing career with technical articles for computer magazines, but now writes mostly for genealogical publications. She can be reached by e-mail at BCLAY@compuserve.com.

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ITALIAN ⟷ ENGLISH
TRANSLATION SINCE 1983

Parentèle

Automatically produce your own family CD-Rom

Multimedia Genealogy Software written by Genealogists

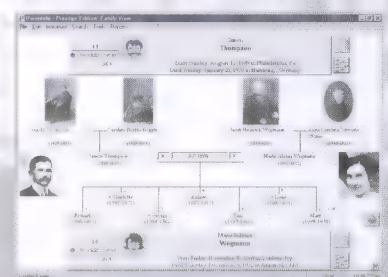
Prestige Edition

BEST SELLER in Europe

The most powerful multimedia tool for genealogy…

available in English, French, Dutch and German versions, ***Parentèle*** is written by genealogists, for anyone, regardless of their level: beginner or advanced.

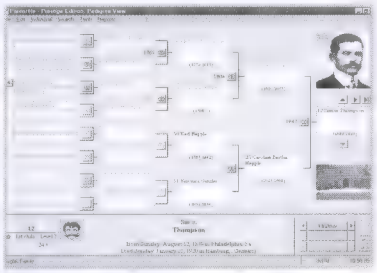
Parentèle is at the vanguard of multimedia software technology. It allows you to manage, present, communicate and exchange your research with your family as well as other genealogists anywhere in the world.



In ***Parentèle***, your genealogy centers around a home individual. From there, it is progressively enriched by recording data on ancestors, brothers and sisters, uncles and aunts, cousins, etc, as well as their alliances. A simple click on any member of your family allows you to recenter the family tree around this new individual, while a double click allows you to modify their information.

Discover our other genealogy titles. Log on to:
http://us.parentele.com

Parentèle allows you to easily navigate within your family tree using three display modes: the Individual Info Sheet, the Family view (3 generations), and the Pedigree view (5 generations). It is easy to understand, and a right click of the mouse reveals the composition of the individual's family cell.



First Impressions:

Parentèle is very impressive. It has most of the features of the other popular genealogy programs on the market today, and I found a few more features that I had not seen before.
Parentèle is aimed at beginners and yet, has features that advanced genealogists will appreciate. The program is fully multimedia capable.
…Parentèle is a very sophisticated and full-featured genealogy program. …it will have a good future.
—Dick Eastman, Eastman's online genealogy newsletter

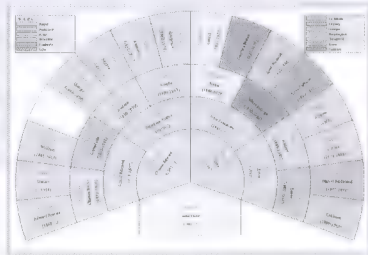
Parentèle appeals to me since the screen show so much information without the need to search other places.
—Art Rubek, Gentech

Absolutely wonderful! Great lineage charts, easy to follow, and great documentation.
—Kris Richins, GenTech

"PRESENTATION AND COMMUNICATION"

Edit over 80 types of presentation documents: biographies, descendant trees, ascendency charts with photographs of the individuals, fan chart, register descendant chart, and much more.

Parentèle is especially well suited for exchanging information with genealogists from around the world. It allows you to publish and transmit your data over the Internet (in HTML format), in four different languages. And you can get free web space and indexation for your data on our web site.



Parentèle offers a host of innovative and easy-to-use functions: Publish your genealogy on the web, or send your relatives a multimedia presentation of your family on CD-R. You can do that directly from the program (Prestige Edition only).

To download the demo or request a free demo CD, log on to ***http://us.parentele.com***

Ask for your free demo

Parentèle is available in two editions:

- ***Classic Edition:*** manages up 2048 people per family. **$59.95**
- ***Prestige Edition:*** manages an unlimited number of individuals per family, "Expert" functions, multimedia family CD-R creation. **$99.95**

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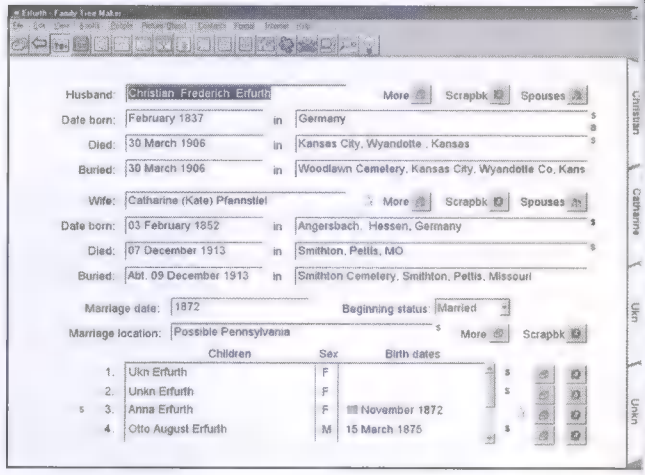
Phone: (909) 626-4070 - Fax: (909) 624-9574
info@us.parentele.com

ALSYD MULTIMEDIA

REVIEW

Sherril Erfurth



Family Tree Maker 8.0

Initially, the purpose of genealogy software packages was to organize names, locations, dates, and relationships. Today, we create "people" from these names by showing photos and signatures, by hearing the sounds of their voices, and by producing a perspective of their times and a visual geographic location from our software. *Family Tree Maker* version 8.0 attempts to meet this challenge.

As with most CD software, the program is quickly installed using the automated Setup Installer. The upgrade version installs over the older version. It requires no other steps to continue. Creating a new family file with *Family Tree Maker* is extremely user-friendly. The Startup Wizard "hand carries" the data, inserting names, dates, and locations from the opening dialog boxes to the proper family group sheet locations.

After entering your family information, *Family Tree Maker* recommends proceeding to the FamilyFinder center to perform a FamilyFinder search. This search of the FamilyFinder index identifies individuals that match your family file and creates a FamilyFinder report. While some referenced CDs are included in the software package, most must be purchased separately or accessed via the Internet through a paid subscription. An additional search can be executed online, referencing both the CDs and the Web sites relevant to your family names. However, when I tried this service the 10 Web sites that were found for my family were all bad addresses. So I found the report to be a Genealogy.com marketing tool rather than a reliable personal resource.

Family Tree Maker's tree charts include both descendant and ancestor family trees in traditional and fan style formats, an hourglass chart showing both the ancestors and descendants of an individual, and a new chart called All-in-One. This "all-family" chart displays ancestors and descendants—everyone in the file, related or not. Similar to most multi-relationship charts, tracking is difficult, but it affords the ability to present every person on one chart. Using the drag-and-drop boxes can personalize the layouts of the ancestor and descendant trees. The related individual stays connected as he or she is moved to the tailor-made location. All the charts can be printed on backgrounds (a photograph or clip art) either included in the software package or from other files. The many tree options provide the opportunity to construct impressive presentations. Unfortunately, we can't save these trees to a file, exclusive of the genealogy software, for outside printing.

Find and replace, a new and long-past-due feature, allows for the correction of errors, or spelling, substitutions, and additions, such as the inclusion of a county name with its city and state. The Family Page, which is the input screen (see Figure 1), now includes informative burial dates and locations. Improved family group sheets allow for source documentation to be printed just below the facts, removing the superfluous pages of printing that bogged down older versions.

INFORMATION

System Requirements: Pentium 90 CPU (P166 recommended); Windows 95/98; 16 MB RAM (32 MB recommended); 100 MB free hard-drive space; 2X CD-ROM; mouse; 640x480, 256-color or higher monitor.

Genealogy.com
P.O. Box 7865
Fremont, CA 94537-7865
800-548-1806
$59.99–$99.99

www.familytreemaker.com

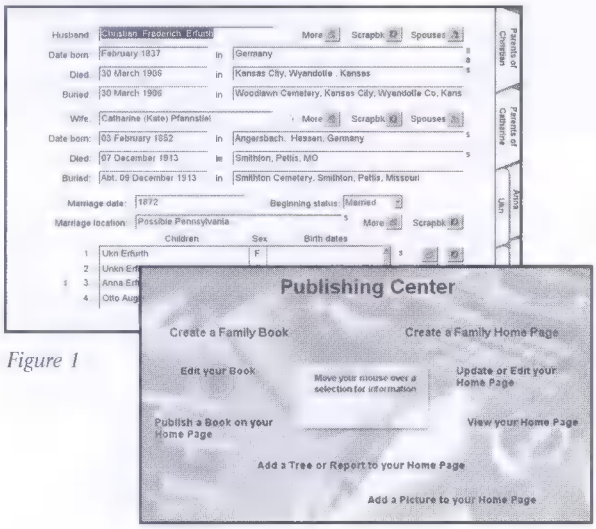


Figure 1

Figure 2

This version also contains a new Publishing Center, (see Figure 2), which contains an Internet Home Page Creator and a Family Book Creator. Creating your own, free home page on the *Family Tree Maker* site is effortless. The wizard automatically creates the fully integrated home page, with options for surname and individual name indexes, individual trees, reports, and books you specify. Using the information you have entered in your family file, the family appears, almost magically, online. The provision to "privatize" the sacred information of living people before submission is a quick and easy option. Adding and editing this Web site is also as easy, and immediate, as its creation.

The concept of creating a customized family book through the new Publishing Center is excellent, but challenging. Without the manual's reference to the family book creation, the genealogist must produce the book by trial and error. Because the program allows the inclusion of trees with images, reports, time lines, maps, calendars, bibliographies and documentation, or most any insertion needed, your book can contain title, dedication, and preface pages; a table of contents; multiple chapters; pagination; and an index. A built-in word processor permits additions of stories or facts. A provision for the insertion of blank pages is even available. However, an initial attempt at book creation will reveal that, prior to the book's production, all the trees and reports must be individually generated. Using the Publishing Center for the creation of a family book is not an assembly-line process. The user must first create all separate entities, using the Publishing Center for the final product.

Improved family group sheets allow for source documentation to be printed just below the facts, removing the superfluous pages of printing that bogged down older versions.

I anticipated the FamilyFinder Tips button to be a little-used new feature and was pleasantly surprised. This

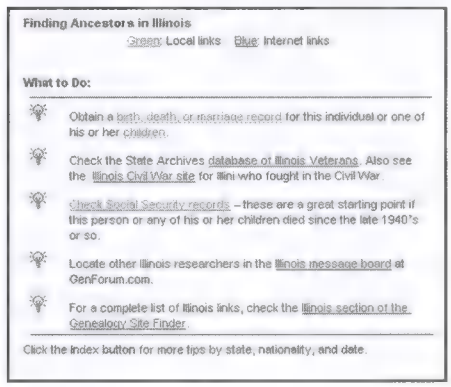


Figure 3

online and offline feature (see Figure 3) offers customized search suggestions with many proposals for future research. The software package includes preformatted letters for requesting vital records, and gives addresses and phone numbers of state and county agencies. These letters contain the data each repository requires, i.e., the relationship of the individual to the requestor and the cost of the certificate. For online research, FamilyFinder Tips considers the state of the specific ancestor and suggests many Web sites for online research. For my ancestor who was born about 1770 in Virginia, there were more than 4,500 links. Some links were excellent referrals, including actual censuses, but others were commercial advertisements.

The standard genealogical reports are in three numbering formats. The *Register* report and the *NGS Quarterly* report are descendant-ordered and the Ahnentafel report is ancestor-ordered. Notes and sources can be included in these report documents.

Family Tree Maker also has some

great "sidebar" reports. A variety of these preformatted reports are helpful with research planning, correspondence, and records of medical history. The Research Journal (see figure 4) is a wonderful planner. It sets priorities for your research according to dates, surnames, individuals, or periods, and generates reminders for future research or cleanup. The Research Journal quickly becomes an essential organizational report. The Data Errors report provides a list of the empty boxes (dates yet to be found), the possibility of duplication of people, and potential errors, such as a birth long after the death of a parent or before the age of 13. Items on this report could be listed on the Research Journal.

Using the mapping option (which is not new to this version) provides a wonderful visual perspective of the family's geographic origins. Locations of the births, marriages, and deaths of a specific individual, or the entire family, can be printed on maps. Mapping footnotes further link the individuals to locations. Geographic locations of ancestors can be pinpointed on a page or wall-size map of the world, continent, or nation.

Scrapbook pages in this program can contain pictures, sound clips, or video clips with options of fonts, colors, boxes, and borders. My photos from both a file and a scanner were quickly and easily labeled and entered. Scanning a wonderful old will, and formatting the scrapbook to print one image to a page, was a delightful way to share the beautiful handwriting and words with others.

Documentation is critical for good reporting. This software provides a one- or two-step entry. The one-step entry is the simple documentation (see Figure 5) that can easily conform to Elizabeth Shown Mills' guidelines in the book *Evidence!*[1] If specified, all information input in this step is printed on reports and family group sheets. The Bibliography of Sources report prints the information from this entry. The second optional but valuable step allows for additional data: the source location, call number, type of media, comments, and source quality. Although this addendum of information is not a new option, I have previously been unable to print it.

With every upgrade, *Family Tree Maker's* manual becomes smaller, forcing the user to access the computer's Help option. It is a more economical production, but limits browsing. For me, manual

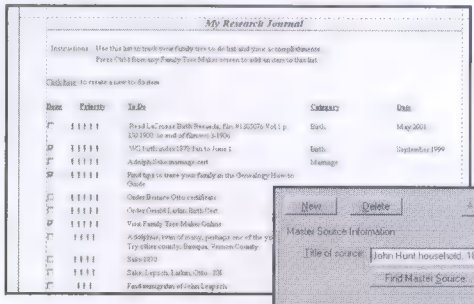


Figure 4

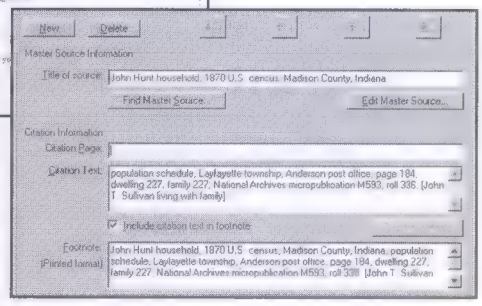


Figure 5

browsing is a learning experience that exposes tips, shortcuts, and options that would otherwise remain hidden.

As they release each new version, the researcher is treated to inventive features that assist in smoother compilation of data with expedient, impressive reports. The ultimate software would be the melding of several different applications. As *Family Tree Maker* has developed from DOS to Windows 3.1 to 95 to 98, the astounding informational tools have multiplied. However, we never have enough. **G**

1. *Elizabeth Shown Mills,* Evidence! Citation & Analysis for the Family Historian *(Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1997).*

The mapping option provides a wonderful visual perspective of the family's geographic origins.

Sherril Erfurth, a professional genealogical researcher, is president of the Colorado Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists, president of her local genealogy society, and a member of numerous genealogical organizations. A volunteer at the National Archives–Denver Region who lectures on genealogical topics, she attended Samford University's Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research. She can be reached by e-mail at familyfootprints@yahoo. com.

If you're serious about making family history, Ancestry.com is making a lot of census in 2001.

AIS Census Index: Pre-1790
1790 U.S. Federal Census Index (AIS)
1800 U.S. Federal Census Index (AIS)
1810 U.S. Federal Census Index (AIS)
1820 U.S. Federal Census Index (AIS)
1830 U.S. Federal Census Index (AIS)
1840 U.S. Federal Census Index (AIS)

1850 U.S. Federal Census Index (AIS): CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT
1850 U.S. Federal Census Index (AIS): DE, DC, MD, NJ, PA
1850 U.S. Federal Census Index (AIS): NY
1850 U.S. Federal Census Index (AIS): IL, IN, MI, MN, WI
1850 U.S. Federal Census Index (AIS): OH
1850 U.S. Federal Census Index (AIS): AL, AR, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, NC, SC, TN, VA, WV
1850 U.S. Federal Census Index (AIS): CA, IA, KS, MO, NE, NM, OR, TX, UT
1850 U.S. Federal Census Index (AIS) Suite

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1860 U.S. Federal Census Index (AIS): DE, DC, MD, NJ, PA
1860 U.S. Federal Census Index (AIS): NY
1860 U.S. Federal Census Index (AIS): IL, IN, MN, WI
1860 U.S. Federal Census Index (AIS): FL, GA, NC, SC, VA, WV
1860 U.S. Federal Census Index (AIS): AL, AR, KY, LA, MS, TN
1860 U.S. Federal Census Index (AIS): AZ, CA, CO, ID, IA, KS, MT, NE, NV, NM, OK, OR, SD, TX, UT, WA
1860 U.S. Federal Census Index (AIS) Suite

1870 U.S. Federal Census Index (AIS): CT, DE, DC, IL, IN, ME, MA, MN, PA, VT, WI
1870 U.S. Federal Census Index (AIS): IA, KS, NE, ND, SD
1870 U.S. Federal Census Index (AIS): FL, GA, NC, VA, WV
1870 U.S. Federal Census Index (AIS): AL, AR, KY, LA, MS
1870 U.S. Federal Census Index (AIS): AK, AZ, CA, CO, ID, MT, NV, NM, OR, TX, UT, WA, WY
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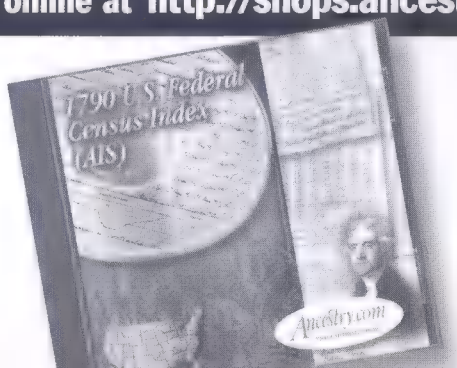

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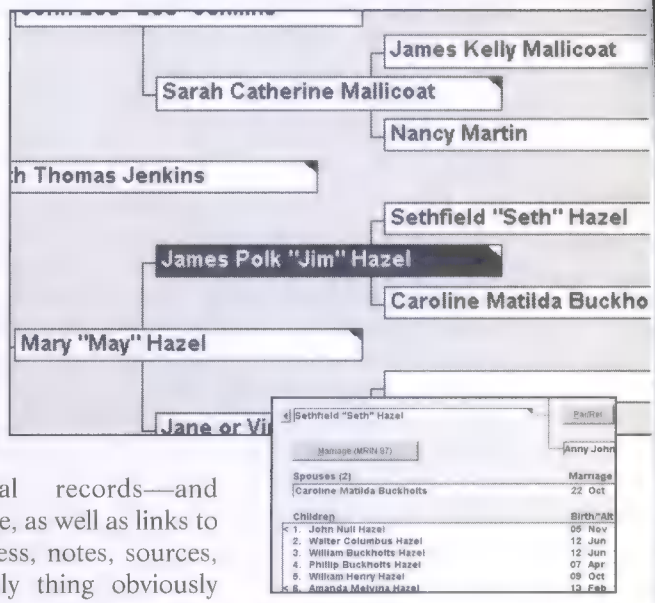
CD0300GC

Barbara Schenck

Family Trees Quick & Easy 4.0



Family Trees Quick & Easy 4.0 is basically just that. It's quick. It's easy. It isn't difficult for the first-timer to load, and it has a lot of features that are easy to grasp and put to work right away.

The program comes on a CD that is packaged with the June 1999 version of the Social Security Death Index (SSDI). For those just getting started with their family history, this index is an excellent first step. It will lead researchers to recently deceased family members and encourage them to start from the near past and work backward—a method that will save time and effort in the long run.

When I opened the box, I did what most people do when they get a new CD. I just put it in and hoped for the best. I nearly got it. The program loaded with minimal effort from me. It also loaded very quickly. The only problem came at the end of the installation when it refused to get out of the loading loop and walked me through it again; we would still be walking if I hadn't hit Cancel to get out.

The program allows you to choose to begin a new file, open an old one, or import one from elsewhere. Once you decide, you're in business.

I began with a new file and was presented with a five-generation tree chart and a black rectangle in spot No. 1 where I was to begin. Once I clicked on it, two more screens appeared. One was full of editing tips to help me find my way around. The second allowed me to add a new individual. Unfortunately, it wasn't possible to keep them both up at the same time. (If you encounter a problem, a quick click on the Help button at the bottom of the screen provides a step-by-step guide through the entry process.) There are fields to enter birth, christening, death, and burial records—and sources—on this page, as well as links to the individual's address, notes, sources, and media. The only thing obviously missing is a place for the marriage record. This has a screen of its own. But you won't see it here.

Unlike other programs I'm familiar with, *Family Trees Quick & Easy* does not seem focused on family records (as in couples and children), but instead it is focused on lines. As mentioned, there is no place for a spouse on the initial screen. Because you see a pedigree chart, your next logical move is to add parents and grandparents as far back as you can go. To enter each one's records, you click on his/her spot on the "tree" and then choose to "add a new individual" or "select an existing individual." If the person you want to add as a parent has already been entered elsewhere, you can select him/her from the index provided. If you choose to "add a new individual," you simply repeat what you did earlier.

Eventually, though, you're going to want to stop going backward and add spouses and children. This means getting out of Pedigree view and choosing Family view. To do this, visit the toolbar at the top and select Family. Ah, at last, a place to add a spouse and information about the marriage. Here's where you can enter children, too. Each entry follows the same "add new individual" pattern. It's quick. It's easy.

INFORMATION

System Requirements: 486 or Pentium-based PC or higher; Windows 95, 98, NT or higher; 8 MB RAM; 5 MB free hard-drive space; 2x CD-ROM Drive; 256 color VGA or higher display

Individual Software, Inc.
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$19.95

www.individualsoftware.com

One thing I particularly liked about the family group list was that I could manually sort the children by birth order no matter how I entered them. And if I didn't know the birth years of all the children, but I knew the order, I could put them in the order I wished. Nothing in the program made the decision for me.

Adding photos, video, sound clips, or other multimedia files is quick and easy, too, using the Multimedia icon on the toolbar. Many formats are supported. Once you have highlighted the person for whom you wish to include multimedia, simply click on the icon, choose Add, and browse your way to where the file is located. Click on it, and bingo, you've added it. There's room to put in a caption and description of each item, and if you add several things to one person, you can click through the captions and get a thumbnail of each. You can also view them individually in full-screen mode, in a scrapbook with six small photos on a page, or in a slide show where they appear one after another in full-screen format. There is also an editing function for rotating and cropping. As far as I can see, you can't enlarge things, but you can do that in another program before you enter them here. All in all, the multimedia option is as quick and easy as everything else.

So far, so good. But what about importing files? What if you have nearly 4,000 individuals lurking in some other genealogy program? Can you import them quickly and easily into this one? I did. I wasn't going to. I wasn't sure I wanted to deal with the mess if it didn't work. I've never been much of a knitter, having a tendency to increase and decrease without conscious effort. What if, I thought, I do the same thing here? Knitting and computing inhabit the same mysterious realm for me.

With trepidation, I went to my other software, created a GEDCOM file of the whole rag-tag bunch, then hopped back to *Family Trees Quick & Easy* and said, "Go for it."

In seconds, it had. All 3,997 of my shirttail relations trooped quickly and easily into the new program. I got a readme.txt file of the errors it encountered, which were negligible, amounting mostly to the program not being able to import a few dates in my facts files. Virtually everything of importance, including most of the facts and all the notes and sources, made the trip. Of course, I will have to re-enter my photos and some scanned documents. But, hey, that's quick and easy.

There are lots of little things I really like about this program. When you're in Pedigree view—with five generations visible—info-boxes appear when you put the cursor on someone's name. As you move the mouse over each individual, his or her vital stats appear in the box. This saves a lot of mouse clicks and time spent jumping from screen to screen. If you click on the info-box, another box drops down that contains the names of the person's children. Double-clicking on a child's name will take you to the spot that puts him or her at the head of the pedigree. It's a fast, easy way to maneuver up and down and around a family tree.

Another thing I like is having a lot of options for printing information. If I want to send my cousin in Texas information on my gun-toting great-granddad, I can choose to print in book format (Ahnentafel or modified register), in a pedigree chart, in a list with all his descendants, in a family group sheet, or in an individual summary including all his trials and arrests. If I could find a wanted poster, I could put it in the scrapbook and send her that, too! There are lots of options under each format that allow me to customize the report, and a Preview function lets me see what I'm going to get before I actually print it out. All in all, very nice. Very easy. Very quick.

What didn't I like? Not much. It's a slick program. It's easy to maneuver around, and it doesn't take a degree in software engineering or genealogy to get started. There is plenty of room for each user to add almost unlimited amounts of information. The software doesn't have a problem working with blended families, adoptions, multiple marriages, foster children, or whatever relationships people choose to enter.

The index, called the Browse List, is available under Tools, and it's a great help if, like me, you have lots of ancestors named Seth Hazel and you can't remember which one married Caroline Buckholts and which one married Nora Graham. As I scroll down the list, each Seth gets his own little window that lists his vital statistics, his parents, and his spouse. More time saving, less mouse clicking. What a deal.

I've used the same genealogy program for seven years. I like it a lot. I also like *Family Trees Quick & Easy*. In some ways, I like it as much or more than the one I'm used to. It's quick. It's easy. It's everything, in fact, that it's cracked up to be. **G**

Barbara Schenck has been doing genealogy for over 25 years. She is particularly interested in the people behind the names and dates. She is the author of more than 40 romance novels, writing under the name of Anne McAllister. Barbara can be reached by e-mail at JAS17@aol.com.

America, America

Reviewed by Becky Haworth

Published by Kay Downs Brown; 304 33rd Street; Newport Beach, CA 92663; 1999. CD-ROM. System requirements: Adobe Acrobat Reader *4.0; Windows 95/98/NT 4.0 with Service Pack 3 or later; 16 MB RAM; 10 MB of available hard-disk space. $29.95 (includes shipping).*

nying Adobe *Acrobat Reader* software (if it's not already on your computer). The pages were easy to read and scroll through; Adobe provides a Find tool to search for a particular town or state.

America, America does have a few drawbacks that would be nice additions to a future version. An index listing on the first page for each state, rather than a scrolling page, would make initial searches easier. A listing of each county seat's phone and fax number is included, but an address, Web site, or e-mail address would provide easier access to information for each county. Also, a current county map of each state would be a nice addition.

I had some difficulties in installing the fonts on my comput-

discs, item #50163. System requirements: Pentium processor; Windows 95 or higher; 8 MB RAM; Family History Resource File Viewer *(included on CD). $10, plus shipping.*

www.familysearch.org

The press release for this set of discs states that the index includes 1.9 million birth and christening records and some 300,000 marriage records from Mexico. Partial listings cover the years 1659–1905. Randy Bryson of the Family and Church History Department states, "In most cases, the index contains between 100 and 150 years worth of records from a particular community. Some areas even cover over 300 years." The set is comprised of five compact discs, including a

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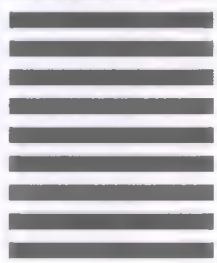

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America, America

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http://www.placesandcounties.com/

America, America, a gazetteer of the first 48 states, provides excellent information for the beginning or advanced genealogist. The author is very thorough in her research. You should be able find a town, township, or city, even if it has been relocated to a different county or changed its name—a common occurrence in the past. The author made good use of symbols to identify what type of village, town, township, or city you are looking for. *America, America* also makes note if a place is located in several different counties. The software contains each county's organization date, parent counties, and county seat.

The software is easy to use, and it is simple to install the accompanying Adobe *Acrobat Reader* software (if it's not already on your computer). The pages were easy to read and scroll through; Adobe provides a Find tool to search for a particular town or state.

America, America does have a few drawbacks that would be nice additions to a future version. An index listing on the first page for each state, rather than a scrolling page, would make initial searches easier. A listing of each county seat's phone and fax number is included, but an address, Web site, or e-mail address would provide easier access to information for each county. Also, a current county map of each state would be a nice addition.

I had some difficulties in installing the fonts on my computer, but this did not seem to affect the software's performance; it produced an error that I clicked through easily.

Overall, this is a useful tool for all genealogists. How many times have you been unable to find a book or map to locate a county and continue a search? *America, America* is a handy reference you can simply carry in your laptop to quickly reference when and where you need it.

Middle America–Mexico Vital Records Index

Reviewed by
Suzanne Prosnier, CGRS

Published by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; Family and Church History Department; Salt Lake City, UT; 2000. Set of five compact discs, item #50163. System requirements: Pentium processor; Windows 95 or higher; 8 MB RAM; Family History Resource File Viewer *(included on CD). $10, plus shipping.*

www.familysearch.org

The press release for this set of discs states that the index includes 1.9 million birth and christening records and some 300,000 marriage records from Mexico. Partial listings cover the years 1659–1905. Randy Bryson of the Family and Church History Department states, "In most cases, the index contains between 100 and 150 years worth of records from a particular community. Some areas even cover over 300 years." The set is comprised of five compact discs, including a Resource File Viewer that enables the searching of three discs of birth and christening records and one disc of marriage records.

A powerful search engine allows access to various data fields: given name, surname, parents, (which include a list of all children), locality (which includes individual parishes), and date. It also allows for statistical data. Within the chronological limits of the records, the number of people with a particular surname can be determined within a given locality or throughout all of Mexico. The surname Esparza is used as an example. There are 334 total marriages for that surname, but it appears in only a few of the 24 Mexican states in the index. The birth and christening records for that surname total 1,679.

As the indexes are scrolled, a convenient double screen appears, providing additional information and source data, including the microfilm identification number for each entry. When using the marriage records, an easy switch will bring up a screen that lists all children of a marriage. Selected entries may be tagged and printed.

If a locality is chosen, records

are displayed in chronological order. The press release states that records begin in 1659, but there are numerous records that are much earlier. The first two marriage records on the disc, for the parish of San Pedro in Cholula de Rivadabia, Puebla, have a date of 1334, which raises questions of accuracy; the microfilm source in the Family History Library Catalog indicates that records in that parish begin in 1639. Also, numerous marriages for the parish of Santa Maria de la Natividad, Atlixco, Puebla are dated 1567, while the microfilm source for that parish indicates that records begin in 1582. As with all published material, family historians must be cautious to verify all information.

The collection does not contain a list of localities, which is lamentable given the extraordinary effort that went into the compilation of this momentous work. (I spent numerous hours determining which states and towns were included.) In fact, no records for Middle America are found on these discs. The records are only partial collections from limited localities in Mexico. Purchasers may be disappointed to discover that their area of interest is not included.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints continues to be a leader in assembling international genealogical collections to preserve the world's heritage. The genealogical community eagerly awaits future additions to this collection.

Genealogical Records: Early West Virginia Settlers, 1600s–1900s (CD 519) and Early Kentucky Settlers, 1700s–1800s (CD 520)

Reviewed by
Barbara Vines Little, CG

Published by Genealogy.com, LLC, in collaboration with Genealogical Publishing Company; 1001 North Calvert Street; Baltimore, MD 21202; 2000. CD-ROM. System requirements: CD-ROM drive, version 3.02 or higher of Family Tree Maker *for Windows or Macintosh or* Family Archive Viewer *(free upon request or download). $29.99, plus shipping.*

www.genealogybookshop.com

Both of these CDs provide graphic images of a number of previously published books. An introduction on each CD provides a brief description of each book and its contents, as well as an explanation of how to search the index and how to cite the source of the information. While the reference to source citation is welcome, the example does not adhere to any of the accepted citation formats: the punctuation and listing of the author's last name first is reminiscent of a bibliographic rather than a note entry; titles are placed in quotes rather than italics; and the CD copyright date is not given. Users would be well advised to ignore the suggested format and turn to either Mill's *Evidence! Citation & Analysis for the Family Historian* or the *Chicago Manual of Style*.

These CDs were published in conjunction with Genealogical Publishing Company, and the advertising blurbs provided by GPC provide a reasonably clear picture of the information the user can expect to find. Genealogy.com's descriptions are not quite as helpful or accurate.

The West Virginia CD is described as "comprehensive in [its] coverage of early West Virginia." But of the 14 books included on the CD, nine are county specific, covering Berkeley, Cabell, Greenbrier, Hampshire (two volumes), Kanawha, Mason, Preston, and Roane counties. The northern panhandle and northwestern and southern parts of the state are not included. Only the 13 West Virginia counties formed prior to 1800—Berkeley, Brooke, Greenbrier, Hampshire, Hardy, Harrison, Kanawha, Monongalia, Monroe, Ohio, Pendleton, Randolph, and Wood—are found in *West Virginia Estate Settlements*. Three volumes provide varying information on military service and Revolutionary War public service claims. The 14-volume *Genealogies of West Virginia Families* is a compilation of 30 genealogies published in the *West Virginia Historical Magazine Quarterly*.

The Kentucky CD is also described as "comprehensive in its coverage of early Kentucky." While this is an obvious overstatement, the contents of the CD do not appear to be as randomly selected, and the CD seems to provide a broader coverage of the state. Three of the volumes contain marriages and newspaper obituaries originally published in the *Register of the Kentucky Historical Society. Abstracts of Early Kentucky Wills and Inventories* presents abstracts of wills and other estate records from the first will book of each of the 38 Kentucky counties formed between 1780 and 1842. *Kentucky Court and Other Records* is a potpourri. While the records are varied and include abstracts and indexes to county probate records, Bible records, tombstone inscriptions, deed abstracts, marriages, and county orders, they cannot be termed comprehensive—the introduction to the index for Bourbon County estates notes that since the focus was Revolutionary War veterans, women's estates were omitted. Four of the volumes focus on Revolutionary War and War of

1812 service, and the final volume is an index to *Littell's Laws of Kentucky*.

Although both of these CDs are far from comprehensive in their coverage, either can provide the researcher with valuable information. To purchase published copies of any two of the books found on these CDs would more than cover the cost of the CD.

Many older books do not have every-name indexes (some have no index); consequently, the CD's master index is a big plus, even though it is limited to names. Users should, however, check the individual indexes as well, since both master indexes contain errors and omissions. For example, Sir Christopher Musgrave Bart[onet] is indexed in the master index under Bart instead of under his surname, Musgrave; his daughter Anne (Musgrave) Aglionby is indexed only under her maiden name in the book *Genealogies of West Virginia Families*.

The user interface could be friendlier, and most would prefer to have searchable text; however, these CDs provide, at a nominal cost, access to books that are out of print and often poorly indexed. As with any collection, users will find some portions to be of little value, so purchases should not be based upon the publisher's flowery descriptions, but upon a careful evaluation of the titles reproduced on the individual CD.

Family History: Early New York Families 1600s–1900s (CD 157) and Connecticut, 1600s–1800s (CD 515)

Reviewed by
Roger D. Joslyn, CG, FASG

Published by Genealogy.com, LLC in collaboration with Genealogical Publishing Company; 1001 North Calvert Street; Baltimore, MD 21202: 2000. CD-ROM. System requirements: CD-ROM drive, version 3.02 or higher of Family Tree Maker *for Windows or Macintosh or* Family Archive Viewer *(free upon request or download). $39.99, plus shipping.*

www.genealogybookshop.com

These *Family Tree Maker*® CDs—two discs in each set—reproduce several biographical-type works (commonly called "mug books") and other mostly turn-of-the-century genealogical compilations of one to four volumes that have been reprinted by GPC and Clearfield Company over the past 30 years (and in three cases originally published by GPC in the 1970s and 1980s).

The New York CD includes two collections edited by William Richard Cutter: *Genealogical and Family History of Central New York* (1912) and *Families of Western New York* [originally Volume 1 of *Genealogical and Family History of New York*] (1912). There are two collections edited by Cuyler Richards: *Genealogical and Family History of Southern New York and the Hudson River Valley* (1914) and *Hudson-Mohawk Genealogical and Family Memoirs* (1911). Also, William S. Pelletreau's *Historic Homes and Institutions and Genealogical and Family History of New York* (1907) and Sebastian V. Talcott's *Genealogical Notes of New York and New England Families* (1883) are included.

The Connecticut CD has nine titles, including a collection edited by Cutter: *New England Families: Genealogical and Memorial* (1913). This title, however, is not mentioned in the introductory material to the CD, but Cutter's *Genealogical and Family History of the State of Connecticut* (1911) is, although this work is not on the CD. There are three works published for the Connecticut Society of Genealogists: Susan Woodruff Abbott's *Families of Early Milford, Connecticut* and Alvan Talcott's *Families of Early Guilford, Connecticut* (1984)—both edited by Jacquelyn L. Riker—and Lucius Barnes Barbour's *Families of Early Hartford, Connecticut* (1977). Also here are William Cothren's *History of Ancient Woodbury, Connecticut* (1854), Nathaniel Goodwin's *Genealogical Notes, or Contributions to the Family History of Some of the First Settlers of Connecticut and Massachusetts* (1856), Donald Lines Jacobus's *History and Genealogy of the Families of Old Fairfield* (1930–32) and *Supplement* (1943), and the genealogical volumes from two works by Henry R. Stiles: *Families of Ancient Wethersfield, Connecticut* [Volume 2 of *The History of Ancient Wethersfield*] (1904) and *Families of Ancient Windsor, Connecticut* [Volume 2 of *The History and Genealogies of Ancient Windsor, Connecticut*] (1892).

With so many titles to list in this review, there is not enough space to describe each one or present a cautionary discussion of the great variance in the reliability of the information presented. I trust, however, that most readers of *GC* are at least somewhat aware of the shortcomings of "mug books" and similar volumes that focus heavily on bare bones genealogical material. Jacobus's well-referenced volumes on Fairfield, Connecticut are far preferable to one of the Cutter compilations.

Nevertheless, all of the books reproduced on these CDs have some value for genealogical—and to some extent, historical—research, and the usefulness of having them on CD is what will be discussed here. There are three

main advantages.

First, the buyer gets more for the buck in terms of cost and space. Individually purchasing the hard copy reprints of the volumes would be significantly more expensive than the cost of the two CD sets. Two CDs, of course, also take up a fraction of the space of the actual books.

Second, most photocopiers are made for paper, not books—copying can damage books. Printing pages from a CD-ROM does not. Indeed, viewing the text and illustrations in these works on a computer screen is quite acceptable, and even where the text seems a little broken up, using the enlarging feature makes it quite readable. The copies I printed also reproduced well.

Third, there are full-name indexes on the CDs that are not found in most of the original volumes or reprints. This can lead a researcher to many helpful discoveries that could otherwise only be found by reading through all the material.

I accessed the books on the CDs through the *FTM* program, but somewhat annoyingly, one of these CDs cannot be opened directly without having something entered in an *FTM* file first. As noted above, one of the advantages of these types of CDs over the actual books is the all-name indexes. Each CD set has a consolidated index reproduced on it; the index shows the name, the CD on which the name can be found, the title and volume, and the page number. Typically, the alphabetical index can be searched by scrolling, and clicking on a name will bring up the image of the page on which that name appears. From there, one can move to previous and next pages, enlarge the image, print the page, and copy to the clipboard. A search alternative is available through the Search Expert, where a name or even the book and page number can be entered. Wildcard and Boolean searches are possible, and fortunately, one can also search on just a first name. By using the Search Expert feature, however, you encounter one of the continuing *FTM* annoyances: getting through the screen with the choices "Search...for Someone from your Family File" or "Search ...for Someone not from your Family File."

Some may argue that CD sets such as these simply continue the proliferation of undocumented and often erroneous works when there is so much other potentially more useful material that could be made available. When used carefully, however, these CDs and the works on them can be useful.

Genealogical Records: Early Georgia Settlers, 1700s–1800s (CD 516) and Early South Carolina Settlers, 1600s-1800s (CD 517)

Reviewed by Linda Woodward Geiger, CGRS, CGL

Published by Genealogy.com, LLC in collaboration with Genealogical Publishing Company: 1001 North Calvert Street; Baltimore, MD 21202; 2000. CD-ROM. System requirements: CD-ROM drive, version 3.02 or higher of Family Tree Maker *for Windows or Macintosh or* Family Archive Viewer *(free upon request or download). $29.99, plus shipping.*

www.genealogybookshop.com

Both of these titles are exciting and will catch the eye of genealogists and family historians, particularly beginners. The CD jackets would have us believe that the material the CDs contain is a unique and comprehensive collection of early Georgia (or early South Carolina) records that will provide names and descriptions of family members; dates and details of vital events; information on residence and/or occupation; and information on an immigrant ancestor's arrival in Georgia (or early South Carolina). These comments are misleading, particularly to the novice genealogist. Of course, that is not to say the CDs aren't useful. Essentially, the data lists individuals (generally free, white males over the age of 20) at a given locality at a given time. I think it would be more appropriate to list the names of the books (with publishing information) that were digitized and placed on each of the CDs.

Claiming to reference approximately 106,000 individuals, the Georgia CD consists of digitized images of six books originally published by GPC, including: George R. Gilmer's *Sketches of Some of the First Settlers of Upper Georgia, of the Cherokees, and the Author* (1926); E. Merton Coulter and Albert B. Saye's *A List of the Early Settlers of Georgia* (1949); Marie De Lamar and Elisabeth Rothstein's *The Reconstructed 1790 Census of Georgia* (1976); the Georgia Historical Society's *Index to the 1820 Census of Georgia* (2nd Edition, with additions and corrections by Mrs. Eugene A. Stanley, 1969); Alvaretta K. Register's *Index to the 1830 Census of Georgia* (1974); and George F. Jones's *Germans of Colonial Georgia, 1733–1783* (1986).

Approximately 120,000 individuals are referenced on the South Carolina CD, which consists of digitized images of 11 books originally published by GPC, including: Charleston Free Library's *Index to Wills of Charleston County, South Carolina, 1671–1868* (1950); Ge Lee Corley Hendrix

and Morn McKoy Lindsay's *Jury Lists of South Carolina, 1778–1779* (1975); Brent H. Holcomb's *Index to the 1800 Census of South Carolina* (1980); Holcomb's *South Carolina Naturalizations 1783–1850* (1985); Holcomb's *North Carolina Land Grants in South Carolina* (1980); Holcomb's *Passenger Arrivals at the Port of Charleston, 1820–1829* (1994); Martha Lou Houston's *Indexes to the County Wills of South Carolina* (1964); Janie Revill's *A Compilation of the Original Lists of Protestant Immigrants to South Carolina, 1763–1773* (1939); the United States Census Bureau's *Heads of Families at the First Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1790: South Carolina* (1908); Jean Stephenson's *Scotch-Irish Migration to South Carolina, 1772 [Rev. William Martin and His Five Shiploads of Settlers]* (1971); and A.S. Salley Jr.'s three-volume *Warrants for Land in South Carolina, 1672–1711* (1910–15).

Using the digitized images with the built-in "easy-search" can cause the user to be careless. Users will find the CDs valuable only if they take the time to read the introductory material and search for the name of a particular individual. For example, a search of the *Index to Wills of Charleston County, South Carolina, 1671– 1868* indicates that the will of William Woodward is recorded in Vol. 26: 639. Only by reading the introductory material do we learn that the compilers of this index used the typed transcripts rather than the original will books, so the volume and page numbers refer to the typed transcript. The introductory material will also explain various symbols and abbreviations (sometimes unusual) used throughout the book.

The software allows individual, digitized pages to be printed with the source information at the bottom of the page. However, because the pages are digitized, one cannot use editing techniques such as cut and paste.

Individuals interested in the specific books reproduced on either of these CDs will find the CD valuable and cost effective. **G**

Users will find the CDs valuable if they take the time to read the introductory material and search for the name of a particular individual.

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Candace L. Doriott

Anticipating Technology

Over the holidays, I got my parents talking about memories from when they were young. Marveling at the idea of real candles on a Christmas tree, I was struck by the changes that have taken place during the course of my parents' lifetimes. My dad spoke of the difference in his life when his father got that first car. From a genealogical perspective, cars and other modes of modern transportation have been invaluable in the pursuit of interviews, photos, gravesites, and sundry forms of documentation. Of course, the Internet has in many cases replaced transportation in the hierarchy of useful technology.

The recent flurry of media coverage about "IT," or Ginger, as it has come to be called, demonstrates high hopes for the promise of technology. Speculation offered in articles and on talk shows leaned toward "IT" being a revolutionary type of engine or a personal transport device, and sometimes went so far as to suggest that, whatever Ginger is, it will change the world as we know it. Whether or not that proves to be true, an engine or another form of transportation won't have much impact on our genealogical corner of the world. However, the development or implementation of other technologies will continue to advance prospects for genealogical progress.

Virtual libraries on the Web are assets of the Internet that reduce the need for a genealogist to travel beyond the desktop. However, considering how long the Web has been around, it's surprising that, in many cases, library Web sites haven't changed much from the days when Internet pioneers used TELNET to access library catalogs and determine whether a library possessed the material they wanted. Only recently have a growing number of repositories, through the use of digital imaging, enabled researchers to actually view online original material from their collections.

There are two great things about these new virtual libraries. First, assuming that the clarity of the image is adequate, the source quality of an original document's image far exceeds the transcriptions many researchers have relied on in the past. Second, in addition to bringing the resources of distant sites within our reach, imaging technology can make previously inaccessible objects available. Brittle documents and rare artifacts that have been off limits to all except high-priority researchers may be included in a virtual library.

The online availability of digital images of fragile historical items from the U.S. Library of Congress is one example of this. The Native American legal materials, letters in the Presidential Papers, and reports of slavery trials included in this collection will offer valuable clues and stories for some lucky genealogists.

Virtual libraries on the Web reduce the need for a genealogist to travel beyond the desktop.

Future Tech

Now that imaging technology is providing us with visual access to original documents and photographs over the Internet, what's next? The hype about Ginger has me wondering what other

advances technology can offer for genealogists. Perhaps one of the most desirable technologies would keep us from losing touch with some of our genealogical contacts. It would include an automatic way to keep others updated about e-mail address changes and would automatically notify everyone concerned of address and phone number changes. (In case you haven't figured it out, I moved recently, and I'm really tired of finding companies that I forgot to notify of my address change, and of getting calls in the middle of the night from people on the other side of the world who are trying to contact the person who previously had what is now my phone number.) Unfortunately, I haven't heard of any such invention.

3-D Printing at MIT

Check out this MIT site for photos of replicated 3-D objects. (Wait until the images cycle through to the architectural model of the White House.)

web.mit.edu/afs/athena.mit.edu/org/t/tdp/www/

There are, however, a number of technologies that have potential for genealogical applications. Some are still under development, while others are currently in use for specialized functions. One of the newest inventions, with plenty of investor interest, but no products yet on the market, is likely to revolutionize the physical interface we use with computers and other electronic devices. The company ElectroTextiles has created a technology that uses soft interfacing by interweaving flexible electronics into the structure of fabric. One of the sample products is a computer keyboard that has been incorporated into a necktie. While the idea of electronic clothing may seem pretty strange, think of how much easier it would be to go on a research trip if you could wear most of your computer.[1]

www.electrotextiles.com/

While the idea of electronic clothing may seem pretty strange, think of how much easier it would be to go on a research trip if you could wear most of your computer.

Other technologies may change the way we interact with Web sites, including virtual libraries. Viewing documents and other items connected to our ancestors is a nice option, but sometimes it's not enough. A radio talk show guest described an interesting encounter that reminded me of the important details that are missed when the only sense you can use is sight. While researching in Great Britain, he noticed a man at the next table who was going through collections of old letters. The man was picking up each envelope and smelling it before reading the associated letter. When asked what he was doing, the man indicated he was researching the spread of bubonic plague. Writers from a town that had cases of plague often didn't mention it in their correspondence; however, their letters' envelopes were sprinkled with vinegar. And even after hundreds of years, a slight odor of vinegar clung to those old envelopes.

The last major outbreak of plague in Britain was in the late-1800s. San Francisco had an outbreak in the early-1900s. I don't know if sprinkling vinegar on envelopes was the practice at either of these times, but if families or manuscript collections have letters that survived from that time, it would be interesting to check. Of course you can't smell things over the Web, but that may change soon.

A new peripheral device for computers called iSmell, by Digiscents, can generate synthetic smells. Smells can be digitally incorporated into a Web site, and Real Player can be activated to broadcast the odor to the user through the iSmell device. Although Digiscents has not yet implemented this device, there are devices such as Cyrano's E-nose that can detect odors. Of course, other than the vinegar envelopes, scent does not play a large part in genealogical research. But some scrapbooks may contain letters or hankies with the smell of perfume. It could be nice to share that smell as you have a videocam Web conversation with a relative across the country.[2]

www.digiscents.net/

Making Contact

At virtual libraries of the future, we should be able to *do* more than *see* and, when appropriate, hear and smell objects we are interested in. If you were viewing a beautiful old parchment document, wouldn't you be tempted to reach out and feel the texture? If you were viewing a carving your great-grandfather

created, wouldn't you want to trace over the lines and feel the grain of the wood? To some degree, that is already possible with TouchSense technology, which "translates digital information into physical sensations." All it takes is the appropriate coding on a Web page and a tactile mouse.[3]

www.immersion.com/

Another invention currently in use for industrial design and by some sculptural artists takes imaging and fax technology another step into the future. Imagine family reunions where a three-dimensional reproduction of an ancestral home or neighborhood could be created on a tabletop, or in the back yard if you got really ambitious. Imagine generating interest in genealogy among grandchildren by giving them the gift of a playhouse version of the house, complete with miniature ancestors that looked and dressed as they appeared in old photos.

Three-dimensional printing, solid-imaging, and stereo lithography are all terms to describe a process that creates or replicates three-dimensional objects out of paper, foam, plastic, clay, wax, ceramic, metal, or composite materials. With the appropriate software to design or scan the desired item, a solid-imaging machine will produce a physical model or sculpture. The design may also be transmitted to be "printed" or "imaged" at a distant location. The process works something like an inkjet printer, spitting out the modeling substance in the round until the shape is complete. Although currently not available for home use, remember that at one time, fax machines, scanners, and even computers were limited to large businesses and industry.[4]

Museum gift shops sell reproductions of paintings and other art objects. The virtual libraries we use for genealogical research may someday do the same, transmitting 3-D reproductions of the objects they now allow us to view. They may also use a variety of technologies to make our Web experience of their collections seem much closer to reality. And at home with our newest piece of technology, the home stereo lithographer, we may be able to create our own replica of great-grandfather's carving. GC

1. *Leander Kahney, "Introducing Touchy-Feely Tech," Wired News, 13 Nov 2000, <www.wired.com/news/technology/0,1282,40117,00.html>.*

2. *Fenella Saunders, "Electronic Scentsors,"* Discover *21 (April 2000).*

3. *"Mousing with Good Vibrations,"* Wired News, *11 Aug 1999 <www.wired.com/news/technology/0,1282,21207,00.html>.*

4. *Brad Lemley, "Future Tech: Behold, the 3-D Fax!"* Discover *21 (February 2000).*

Candace L. Doriott has served on the board of directors of the Detroit Society for Genealogical Research. She was recently recognized by the International Society of Family History Writers and Editors for her excellence in writing. She can be reached by e-mail at cdoriott@earthlink.net.

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